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Chapter 1

[image]

Wapun (Dawn) POV:

I giggled as François, the royal tailor, moved Ben around to size for his suit at his crowning. Ben was completely zoned out, probably thinking about the decision we had come to earlier this morning. Last night was when we decided the kids, and finalized it this morning after we had slept on it.

"How is it possible that you're going to become King next month?" Ben's father, Beast, asked as he and Belle came into the room.

"Your Majesties." I greeted, bowing my head respectfully before hugging Belle.

"You're just a baby!" Beast continued to tease.

"He's turning 16, dear." Belle remarked, smiling brightly.

"Hey pops." Ben greeted.

"16!" Beast exclaimed, taking off his glasses. "That's far too young to be crowned king. I didn't make a good decision until I was at least...42."

"Huh." Belle scoffed and looked up at her husband, feigning hurt. "Uh, you decided to marry me at 28." She stated, making me giggle at Beast's 'deer in headlights' look.

"Well, it was either you or a teapot." Beast teased, winking at Ben and me as we chuckled. "Kidding." He quickly added as Belle rolled her eyes.

Ben took a big breath before speaking. "Mom, Dad." He started, trying to step off the podium but François stopped him. If the situation hadn't been so serious, I would've laughed. "With Dawn's help, I have chosen my first official proclamation." Belle and Beast

looked at each other then back at him, gesturing for him to continue. I nodded an assurance to Ben before he continued. "I've decided that the children on the Isle of the Lost be given a chance...to live here in Auradon."

Belle dropped a jacket she was folding in shock, one which I quickly picked up and set on Ben's bed. "Every time I look out at the Island, I feel like they've been abandoned. And when Dawn tells me about what she sees when she goes with her dad, it only makes it worst." Ben said, getting off the podium and coming to stand in front of his parents, who had just now broken out of their shocked state.

"The children of our sworn enemies, living among us?" Beast clarified.

"If I may, your majesties." I spoke up. It didn't matter how many times Belle and Beast told me not to use so many royal terms, I was still polite and called them by their titles. "We'll start with a few at first, the ones who need our help the most. We've already decided to be sending scraps and unwanted goods to the Isle, maybe it'll help some of them."

Belle nodded with a slow smile growing across her face. "We've thought about it for a while, and have already chosen them." Ben said, more firm now knowing that his mother supported him.

"Have you?" Beast questioned, zeroing in on Ben.

"I gave you a second chance." Belle reminded, putting a hand on Beast's arm. She turned to face Ben and me again. "Who are their parents?" She asked. Ben looked to me for reassurance, to which I nodded.

"Cruella de Vil, Jafar, Evil Queen, and..." He paused before saying the one we knew would rile them the most. "Maleficent." François yelped, quickly excusing himself and exiting the room. A very good choice on his part.

"Maleficent?!" Beast exclaimed. "She is the worst villain in the land!"

"Dad, just hear me out here." Ben tried, looking to Belle for help.

"I won't hear of it." Beast stated. "They are guilty of unspeakable crimes."

"And their children are innocent!" I exclaimed, making the attention turn to me. "The only thing they're guilty of is surviving on the Isle, a place that none of us would be able to survive if we were thrown over there. It's wretched over there, and those kids have probably have had to fight for everything, things that we take for granted. Don't you think they deserve a shot at life outside of their parent's grasp?" I asked.

"They were raised by their parents, villains!" Beast roared, making Ben take a stop back as I took a step forward. If anyone would be crazy enough to argue with the King of Auradon and a literal Beast, it would have to be me, daughter of John Smith and Pocahontas.

"Yeah, that's right." I said, clenching my fist to keep from losing my temper. "Why shouldn't we give them a chance to be something outside of their parent's wishes?" I asked, making Beast's features soften.

"She's right Dad." Ben voiced as I backed down to stand behind Ben.

"I suppose the children are innocent." Beast relented after a moment of silence before leaving the room.

"Well done. The both of you." Belle complemented, straightening Ben's jacket. Ben beamed making me laugh as Belle left the room and walked over to the window looking out at the Isle.

"You know, the way you always run into the face of danger, I should also make you my private bodyguard." Ben joked.

"Does include keeping a certain girlfriend from suffocating you? Because if it does, I should warn you, I'm a little more hands-on than I probably should be." I teased, both of us exchanging a look before bursting out laughing.

*****

I snatched a lollipop from Chad, tripping him before he could protest. Ben gave me a playful scolding look as I smiled innocently.

"What?" I asked. "He's easy to steal things from, and his reactions are priceless." Ben chuckled as Audrey glared at me.

"Here comes to limo!" Doug called.

"Ready?" I asked Ben.

"Not really." He mumbled as the band started playing and the kids begin cheering. My dad opened the door to reveal the two boys, who I knew were Jay and Carlos from research, fighting over a...towel. Dad rolled his eyes and playfully glared at me since I was the one who asked him to pick them up. I smiled and nodded towards the front of the limo, noticing the crown gone. He nodded, pointing at Jay. As the now silent band parted for FG, Ben, Audrey, and me, Dad snatched the crown back from Jay without him noticing.

"Guys, guys." The purple-haired girl, Mal, whispered. "We have an audience." She sang as the blue-haired girl, Evie, straightened up her clothes.

"Just...cleaning up!" Jay exclaimed with a forced smile. I raised a brow, thinking that instead of cleaning up he meant cleaning out. "Get up." He growled to Carlos, pulling the chocolate-mouth-covered boy off the ground.

"Leave it like you found it." FG sang. "And by that I mean just leave it." She stated. Jay and Carlos looked at Dad, who just raised a brow before Jay threw all the stuff back into the limo. Dad smiled politely, nodded to FG, hugged me, and then drove off, probably going hunting with Mom when he got home.

"Hello, Foxy." Jay flirted, getting very close to a very uncomfortable Audrey as I bit my lip to keep from laughing. "Names, Jay."

"Welcome to Auradon Prep." FG butted in, making Jay's flirty smile fade. "I'm Fairy-Godmother, headmistress." She introduced, curtsying slightly as I picked the last of my nail polish off.

"The Fairy-Godmother?" Mal spoke up. "As in Bibbidi-Bobbidi-Boo?" She clarified, waving her hand around in a wand motion as I

elbowed a staring Ben.

"Bibbidi-Bobbidi, you know it." FG said, making me roll my eyes.

"Yeah, I always wondered, what it felt like for Cinderalla when you just..." Mal trailed off, searching for the right word. "appeared! Out of nowhere! With that sparkly wand and that warm smile...and that sparkly wand." She repeated as I made a mental note to remember that.

"That was a long time ago." FG explained dramatically. There was a reason Ben and I always joked that FG should've been a drama and/or theater teacher. "And as I always say, don't focus on the past, or you'll miss the future."

"It's so good to finally meet you all." Ben started. "I'm Ben."

"Prince Benjamin." Audrey interrupted. "Soon to be king."

"You had me at Prince." Evie stepped up, her upbringing with the EQ clearly showing. "My Mom's a Queen, which makes me a Princess."

"The Evil Queen has-" Audrey started but I interrupted.

"Audrey." I said, sharp and firm. "Why don't you shut up?" I snarled, making FG look at me in horror at my harsh tone, Audrey glare at me, Ben trying to hide a grin, Evie look grateful, the other VK's taken aback at me defending Evie, and the rest of the kids to stiffen at my warning.

"This is Audrey, my girlfriend." Ben continued, nodding gratefully to me as my glare and elbow stopped Audrey from interrupting, her only getting 'Bennyboo' out. "And this is my best friend and Royal Advisor, Wapun Smith. We call her Dawn though."

"Ben, Audrey, and Dawn are going to show you guys around and I'll see you tomorrow." FG piped up. "The doors of wisdom are never shut. But the library hours are from 8:00 to 11:00, and you may have heard that I have a little thing about curfews." With that, FG left with the band following her.

We stared at each other for a while before Ben started his speech. "It is so so, so good to finally meet you all..." Ben went to shake Jay's hand but he got punched instead while I bit my lip to keep from laughing. He then moved on to Mal and boy, could I see the love in that boy's eyes! "This is a momentous occasion and one that I hope will go down in history." He shook Carlos's hand, getting chocolate all over his hand. "Is that chocolate?" He asked before moving to Evie. "As the day our two peoples begin to heal."

"Or the day that you showed four people the bathrooms!" Mal interrupted.

"Told you, you shouldn't have made an entire speech!" I called in a sing-song voice.

"A little bit over the top?" Ben asked Mal.

"Little more than a little bit." Mal said, smiling.

"Well, so much for my first impression." Ben joked.

"Hey, your Maleficent's daughter, aren't you?" Audrey interrupted Ben and Mal's staring. I rolled my eyes, taking some gum out and offering it to Carlos and Evie, who both accepted. I took my own piece and crossed my arms, waiting for Audrey and Mal to finish their 'friendly' banter, pinning Audrey with my fiercest glare.

"Okay, so about that tour?" I interrupted, tossing Jay the rest of my pack of gum after handing Ben and Mal a piece. Ben and Audrey led the tour, Ben narrating while I brought up the back of the group. When Ben got to the statue of Beast as King, he clapped and it formed into Beast as Beast. Carlos screamed and leapt into Jay's arms, clinging onto to dear life as I chuckled.

"It's okay Carlos." I said, nodding for Ben to continue.

"My dad wanted his statue to morph from Beast to Man to remind us that anything is possible." Ben explained.

"Does he shed much?" Mal joked.

"Yeah, Mom won't let him on the couch." Ben joked with a perfectly

straight face. The group continued, but Carlos clapped his hands.

"It only works for the Royal Family." I informed from behind him. He nodded and followed the rest of the VK's.

"Have you been to the Isle?" Carlos asked me as Ben continued talking about the History of Auradon. This made the rest of the VK's turn to me and for Ben to stop.

"Yeah, I have actually." I answered, raising an eyebrow. "Why?"

"I knew I recognized you from somewhere!" Evie exclaimed. "You help unload the supply boats that just started a couple of years ago, right?" She asked.

"Yup." I said, popping the p. "My dad is in charge of the Royal Navy and he personally brings the supplies to the Isle to make sure that you guys actually get them instead of the crew stealing it for themselves." I explained, finishing my braid I had started.

"Who suggested for those to even start?" Mal asked me instead of Ben.

"Ben did." I answered, nodding to Ben.

"But the idea came from Dawn." Ben added. "And she argued with the Council for about three months."

"They were very stubborn." I defended, crossing my arms and playfully glaring at Ben. Audrey glaring at us and tugging on Ben's arm stopped us from getting into another playful wrestling match.

"Those loads have been keeping us alive." Evie admitted to me as she fell to the back with me. "Thank you."

"I've seen the Isle." I said. "If anyone here was dumped over there, they wouldn't survive, not like you guys. It was the least I could do."

"So do you guys have a lot of magic and things like that here in Auradon?" Mal asked as we finished the tour and entered the dorm building. "You know, wands and things like that?"

"Yeah, it exists, of course." Ben answered, leaving out the part that my necklace (that was handed down from Mom's mom to mom than to me) was magical. "But most of it is retired. Most of us here are just ordinary mortals."

"Who happen to be kings and queens." Mal stated.

"That's true!" Audrey piped up. "Our royal blood goes back hundreds of years, right Bennyboo?" Ben chuckled uncomfortably and looked to me for help. I nodded up to where Doug was coming down the stairs.

"Doug!" Ben called, going over to meet him. "This is Doug. He's going to help you with your class schedules and Dawn's going to show you where your dorms are. I'll see you later, okay?" Ben said while looking at Mal, making me smirk. "If you need anything at all, ask-"

"Dawn or Doug." Audrey interrupted. Mal and Audrey fake laughed and sighed, making Ben chuckle uncomfortably. Audrey then took Ben by the arm and dragged him out.

"Bye Nibì-Ininì!" I called after him.

"Hi guys, I'm Dopey's son, as in Dopey, Doc, Bashful, Happy, Grumpy, Sleepy...hi-ho." Doug finished with, having caught sight of Evie.

"Evie, Evil Queens daughter." Evie stated, not even flirting, yet she had Doug caught, hook, line, and sinker.

"Okay, so about your classes, I put in your requirements already." Doug explained, shaking his head to get out of his shocked state as he read off his chart. "History of What's Been, Pirates, Safety Rules for the Internet, and Remedial Goodness 101."

"Let me guess." Mal started. "New class?" Doug nodded while Mal smirked and Evie twirled a piece of her hair. "Come on guys, let's go find our dorms." The four started walking up one side of the stairs as I sighed at Doug.

"They're this way." I called, walking to the other side of the

building. After showing the boys their dorm, I went to Mal and Evie's room, which was right beside mine. "Before I open this door, I want you to know that you can change anything you want, because this does not seem to be your style." I told Mal before opening the door and watching them walk in.

"This place is so amaz-" Evie started as Mal said gross and she quickly amended her statement. "I know right, amazingly gross."

"Ugh." Mal groaned. "I'm going to need some serious sunscreen. E." She said, both girls closing the curtains. "This is so much better." She said, both of them suddenly realizing I was still watching them.

"Sunscreen." I spoke up first, tossing a bottle to Mal. "My dorm is right beside yours, but I probably won't be there majority of the time because of my duties and everything. Bye Nibì-Ikwe!" I said with a smile, closing the door and leaving.

(Nibì-Ininì = White-Man)
(Nibì-Ikwe = White-Woman)
(Wapun = Dawn)

Chapter 2

Wapun (Dawn) POV:

I was woken up by my phone going off, the ringing sound interrupting my playlist. Groaning, I sleepily looked at the screen: *FG Wand Alarm*. Jumping up, I rubbed my eyes before looking at it again. Sure enough, I had read it right. Unlocking my phone, I called the security guard Louis. "Louis, what's going on?" I asked as soon as he picked up and said hello.

"Uh, uh, just give me one second." A voice that didn't sound like Louis told me. A few buttons were pushed and the alarm turned off.

"Is everything okay?" I asked, deciding that Louis must've brought his grandson with him to work.

"Uh, yeah yeah." The kid said.

"Do I need to come over there and check on anything?"

"No. No, uh, false alarm."

"Okay, what happened?"

"It was a malfunction in the uh...LM714 chip in the breadboard circuit."

"Oh. Alright, have a nice night." I said cheerfully.

"Yeah, you too." The kid said, hanging up. I yawned and looked up as Lonnie woke up now that the issue was over. Thank goodness she wasn't the Royal Advisor, that girl sleeps through everything. She looked over at me, raising an eyebrow but shook her head, turned over, and went back to sleep.

The next morning, I went to economics, history, and a Council meeting before running into Jane, FG's daughter in the hall. She looked terrified, so I stopped to make sure she was okay. "You alright Jane?" I asked, raising a brow.

"No...not really." Jane said shyly.

"What's wrong, hunny?" I asked. Jane was a year younger than me and since she was so timid, I had kept the other, meaner, kids from bullying her. "Chad and Audrey aren't picking on you, are they?"

"No." Jane said quickly, looking at the papers in her hands. "I need to take these to mom for her to sign, but she's teaching the Remedial Goodness 101 class, and those kids scare me."

I smiled at her silent question. "Do you want me to go with you?" I asked.

"Would you?" She asked, her eyes lighting up. I nodded and gestured for her to lead the way, following close behind. As we got into the classroom, she squeaked as she went by, making me raise my eyebrows and chuckle.

"Hello dear one." FG greeted, smiling at her daughter. "Good morning Dawn, everything going well with you?"

"Besides the fact that I have to go deal with the Council again after lunch, yeah." I said, smiling and nodding to the VK's.

"You need to sign an early dismissal for the Coronation." Jane gushed out, looking nervously at the VK's as I looked over Mal's shoulder at her drawings.

"You're a really good artist." I commented, making Mal look at me in surprise.

"Me?" She asked in disbelief. Wow, this girl must not get a lot of compliments.

"Yeah." I said with a nod. "You may even be better than Rachel." At the VK's confused looks, I explained. "Rapunzel's daughter. She's Auradon Prep's best artist, but I don't think she can hold that title for very long."

"Everyone here remembers my daughter, Jane." FG called, signing the form's as Jane jumped. "Jane, this is everyone." FG introduced, turning the frightened girl to face the VK's as I sent a reassuring

smile.

"Hi." Jane said timidly. "That's okay. Don't mind me. As you were." She told them, curtsying and squeaking again as she passed them. Sighing, I saluted the VK's before leaving the room. Science, here I come. At lunch, I continued taking notes for things I wanted to present to the Council while following Ben, Chad, and Audrey. As we approached the lockers, Audrey and Chad sighed.

"Those kids are trouble." Chad told Ben and I, pointing at Evie and Mal.

"Come on, Chad." Ben said while I looked up, noticing the artwork on Mal's locker. "Give them a chance."

"No offense Benny-bear," Audrey started after taking her sunglasses off. "You're just too trusting. I know your mom fell in love with a big nasty beast who turned out to be a prince, but with my mom, the evil fairy was just an evil fairy. That girl's mother." She ended with a whisper, nodding to where Mal was standing alone.

"I think you're wrong about them." Ben said, shrugging his shoulders. "And neither one of you are my advisor, Dawn is. And she agrees with me."

And with that, I was dragged into the conversation. Audrey and Chad stared at me expectantly while Ben left, probably to go talk to Mal, his crush. "They have it rough at the Isle. Why can't you guys just give them a second chance?" I questioned, opening my own locker to put some books in it and braiding my hair. Audrey rolled her eyes while Chad scoffed, both of them leaving.

Shutting my locker and turning to face Ben, I smirked at him. "Someone has a crush." I teased, leaning my locker as he came to stand beside me.

"Why do you never have a crush that I can tease you about?" Ben groaned.

"Because none of these boys are my type." I explained.

"And what's your type?" Ben asked.

"Adventurous, intimidating, and a touch of sarcasm." I said with a smirk, handing him a file. "I'm going to go meet with the Council again about those shipments to the Isle. See you later."

(Next Day)

"Mom said 'If a boy can't see the beauty within then he's not worth it.' Can you believe it?" Jane ranted. Mal was on her bed drawing, Evie was sewing, and I was brainstorming ideas to help out the people on the Isle, asking Evie and Mal for their advice on my ideas. "What world does she live in?" Jane asked, groaning as she took a seat on Evie's bed.

"Auradon." Mal answered.

"Mal, Dawn." Evie stated, making us look up. "Do you like?" She asked, holding up a blue dress.

"Yeah." I answered, sending her a thumbs up.

"It's cute. Brings out your eyes." Mal commented.

"I know." Evie sighed, looking proud of herself.

"What do you think of paints and building materials being sent once a month?" I asked, clicking my pen.

"Every other month would be better." Mal suggested.

"Make sure that you include bright colors." Evie piped up, her eyes lighting up at the thought. At Mal's and I's raised eyebrows, she sighed. "What? It'll add texture and personality." I shrugged and jotted down the idea in my planner.

"I'll never get a boyfriend." Jane lamented.

"Boyfriends, are overrated." Mal informed.

"How do you know, Mal?" Evie questioned. "You've never had one."

"I have, and Mal's right. They're overrated." I spoke up. "What about school supplies?"

"Notebooks and writing supplies. That's all we use." Mal said. I nodded and wrote it down. "And Evie, I don't need a boyfriend. They're a waste of time." Evie gasped, making me look up, thinking she had hurt herself or tore the fabric.

"I forgot to do Chad's homework." She said, getting up. "Oh no."

"Chad?" I asked, looking up. "As in Chad Charming?" Evie nodded, making me scoff. "That is a prime example of overrated. He's a jerk, to put it lightly." I informed, making Mal chuckle at my bluntness.

"Hey guys!" Lonnie piped up, knocking on the door before coming inside. "I'm Lonnie, Mulan's daughter." Mal and Evie looked at her blankly as I waved with a smile. "No...okay. Anyway, I love what you've done with Jane's hair. And I know you hate us, and well, you're evil. But, do you think you could do mine?"

Mal glanced at me before looking at Lonnie. "Why would I do that for you?" She asked with an irritated smile.

"I'll pay you $50." Lonnie said.

"Good answer." Evie spoke up, putting her pencil down. "I need to buy new material." She said, taking the bag of coins. "Let's see, I'm thinking, we lose the bangs, maybe some layers, and some highlights."

"No, no." Lonnie interrupted. "I want it cool, like Mal's."

"Oh really?" Evie asked. "The dead ends too?"

"She should see my hair." I mumbled as Mal looked up at Evie, slamming her colored-pencil down. Evie shook the bag of coins and smirked at Mal. Mal groaned and rolled off the bed, grabbing her spellbook.

"Beware, forswear, replace the old with...cool hair." Mal said, swiping her fingers around and Lonnie's hair grew. She ran over to the mirror, smiling in happiness.

"I know, I know." Evie said. "It looks like a mop on your head. You know what, let's cut it off, layer it."

"No no no no no." Lonnie gushed out. "I love it. It's just..." She trailed off, ripping her skirt. "Now I'm cool." She stated.

"Like ice." Mal and I said at the same time, looking at each other before smirking. Jane went over to the mirror and ripped her own skirt, gasping after doing to deed.

"What did I just do?" Jane exclaimed. "Mom's going to kill me!" Lonnie and Evie giggled while Mal and I continued to smirk. After another hour of hanging out with Mal and Evie while brainstorming, I bid my goodbyes and left, putting my notebook in my room before going to bother Ben. Knocking on his office door, I smiled at the sight of him arguing over the phone. Using me as an excuse, he hung up and slumped into his chair.

"Rough day?" I asked. Ben nodded, rubbing his eyes.

"How do you work almost 24/7 and not get tired?" Ben asked.

"Practice." I said, sitting on his desk. "Come on, we're going riding."

"Dawn-" He tried.

"No, you're going." I said firmly, dragging him up from his chair. "Now, you can either change into your fancy riding clothes or you can ride in your suit. It doesn't matter to me."

"Okay fine, I'll go change." Ben relented, getting up. "Have you seen Mal, Evie, Jay, and Carlos today?"

"Mal and Evie, yes." I said. "I just came from their dorm. Why?"

"I'm going to go check on them." Ben concluded, leaving me in his office. I chuckled and followed him, going into my room and braiding my hair to keep it out of my face while riding. Closing my dorm door, I looked up as Ben waved me over to their dorm door. "There isn't any way for them to be up in front with us, is there?" He asked.

"No, sorry." I said, frowning. "It's only Ben, Beast and Belle, FG, his girlfriend, and me." I explained.

"Okay. Thanks!" Mal said cheerfully, closing the door as Ben tried to talk. He stared at the door for a while, making me laugh.

"Come on lover boy." I said, taking his arm and dragging him along to his room. "I'll meet you at the stables." I told him, running to the paddock Drifter where was at. Quickly tacking him up, I went ahead and saddled Luna for Ben. Once he showed up, I was already on Drifter and waiting at the entrance. "Took you long enough." I teased, handing him Luna's reins.

"Dawn," Ben said, mounting Luna. "Shut up." I chuckled, beaming at my best friend.

"Whatcha wanna do?" I asked.

"Race you through the forest cross country course." Ben smirked, taking off.

"Hey!" I called, nudging Drifter gently, which was all he needed to take off, catching up to Ben after he and Luna jumped the first obstacle. Laughing, I waved cheekily to him before leaning further into Drifter's neck, urging him onward. Drifter nickered in amusement as he surged forward, easily passing by Ben and Luna, jumping the next jump.

At the end of the course, I slowed Drifter to a stop and waited for Ben and Luna to complete the course. "How do you always manage to finish before me?" Ben exclaimed after they stopped.

"Drifter's just faster and more powerful than Luna." I said, shrugging. "You going back to the stables?"

"Yeah." Ben said. "You?"

"Nah, I'm going to have some fun." I said, straightening up from where I was leaning on the saddle horn. Seeing Ben's concerned look, I chuckled. "Relax, I'm not going to be creating havok." Ben shook his head but left. "Let's go running, huh?" I asked Drifter. He nickered again, taking off at a ground-covering gallop, and I laughed. This was my favorite place. On the back of my horse, the wind in my hair, and mother nature around me.

Chapter 3

Wapun (Dawn) POV:

"Where are we going again?" I asked Lonnie. I had been finishing up some reports I needed to turn in before the coronation when she dragged me along with her.

"To find Mal." Lonnie answered.

"And you need me why...?" I questioned, raising a brow.

"To use your necklace and find her!" Lonnie stated like it was the most obvious thing ever. Okay, you may be lost. The necklace that my mom gave me is magical, but you already knew that. But because it's magical, it can sense other magical magic and leads me to it. Everyone has a certain amount of magic in them, both good and evil. When I activate it to find someone, a glowing path will appear, but only to me. The more powerful they are the brighter the path is. If the person and/or thing is good, the path is white. If the person and/or thing is evil, the path is black. If the person and/or thing is deciding and/or changing, the path is gray.

"Okay." I mumbled, closing my eyes and concentrating on the core-energy I had sensed from Mal earlier. When I opened my eyes again, a faint gray path appeared. "Follow me!" I sang, leading the way.

"There you are, Mal!" Lonnie smiled as she entered the kitchen. Not many people knew about my necklace, and the ones that did knew to not tell anyone. This is why Lonnie made it seem that we had been looking for them everywhere. "I was looking for you!" Lonnie continued, oblivious to the fact that Mal had just covered her spellbook.

"You know, all the girls want you to do their hair." Lonnie giggled.

"Not me, I'm perfectly fine." I teased, moving my bangs out of my

eyes.

"Midnight snack huh?" Lonnie asked. "Whatcha guys making?"

"Nothing special just cookies-" Mal started as Lonnie dipped her finger into it. "No no no!"

"What? I'm not going to double-dip." Lonnie stated.

"Maybe because there's eggs in cookie batter and raw eggs can kill you." I shrugged sarcastically, deadpanning her.

"Feel, anything?" Evie asked, everyone ignoring me.

"Yeah, like maybe it might be missing something...?" Mal added.

"Hey there." Jay flirted, tucking his hair behind his ear. I rolled my eyes, wondering if girls on the Isle were so desperate that they actually found that attractive.

Lonnie stared at him for a bit with raised eyebrows before sucking her lips in. "Could use some chips." She suggested to Mal. Instant relief was *very* visible on Mal and Evie's faces while Jay repeated 'chips' in a confused voice.

"And those are?" Mal asked.

"Chocolate chips." I clarified.

"The most important food group." Lonnie added. "Unless you're Dawn, then you don't like chocolate."

"Hey! I like chocolate, just not as much as most kids." I protested, offended. Really, the only time I ate chocolate was at important dinners, when someone dear to me gave them to me, and when Code Red hit. Ladies, you know exactly what I'm talking about for that last one. And if you don't, then maybe you're not experiencing them yet. Believe me, you don't want to hurry the process.

"Wait, didn't your mom's ever make you guys chocolate chip cookies?" Lonnie asked as she put a hand full of chips in the bowl. Cue me glaring at her, trying to get her to stop. "Like when you're

feeling sad and they're fresh from the oven with the big ole glass of milk and she just makes you laugh and puts everything into perspective and..." Cue mental facepalm.

"Why are you all looking at me like that?" Lonnie asked. Wow, she is naive.

"It's just different where we're from." Mal answered.

"Yeah, I know, I just...you know, I thought," Don't say it Lonnie! "even villains love their kids!" And you said it. Cue me shooting mental daggers at her head. "Oh." She said quietly, finally realizing what she was saying. "How awful." She mumbled, a tear slipping out as she grabbed Mal's hand.

When Mal spotted the tear, the whole atmosphere changed. She put the tear in the cookie batter, weird, I know, and then escorted us to the door. "Yeah, well, big bummer." Mal said, talking the entire time. "But we have to get these into the oven. So thank you so much for coming by! Have a really really good night, see you tomorrow! Evil Dreams!"

And with that, we were out of the Kitchen. "And I didn't even get any skittles!" I huffed before going back to my dorm. I don't know where Lonnie went, but she disappeared.

*****(Next Morning)*****

I followed Ben and Audrey as we walked to our lockers, balancing several things at once. Opening my locker, I stuffed over 75% of the things in my arms into it and sighed in relief. "Do you think they actually paid for those?" Audrey asked Ben and me, pointing at the girl's who had their hair newly done by Mal.

"I think they look nice." I shrugged.

"She did to Jane's hair too, and Fairy Godmother's not happy about it!" Audrey complained.

"What's the harm?" Ben shrugged.

"It's getaway magic!" Audrey argued. "Sure, it starts with the hair!

Next thing you know, it's the lips and the legs and the clothes and then everybody looks good and then where will I be?" I raised my eyebrows, deciding to not comment on how I thought she looked. "I will see you at the game after my dress fitting for the coronation, okay." Audrey said, cutting Ben off.

"Okay." Ben sighed.

"Bye Bennyboo." Audrey smiled, leaving.

"You need to seriously leave that girl." I stated after she left. "Not even your mother likes her, and Belle likes everyone!"

"Hey, Bennyboo!" Mal called in a cheery voice, imitating Audrey. I smirked and nodded to her, closing my locker.

"I'll see you at the game." I told Ben, leaping over the glass rail and going to a picnic table. I pulled out an apple for my snack and my notebook, taking down notes for everything I remembered from the things I did today. And since I could tell you what I did on any day from the time I was 3, remembering everything I heard today was easy. Yeah, I had a pretty incredible memory.

"MAL-" I was interrupted by Ben...singing?! He was quickly shut-up by Mal covering his mouth and I was left wondering what in the world I had just seen and heard. Instead of asking, I just went back to writing everything down. After about 30 minutes, I picked all my stuff up and left, heading to the bleachers to watch the game. Spotting Lonnie, Mal, and Evie, I went to sit beside them.

After a lot of commentary and playing, Jay, Carlos, and Ben scored the winning goal for our team. Everyone cheered while Mal covered her ears. "Earplugs." I explained to her, holding out a pair of purple and green ones. She nodded gratefully and put them in, letting out a sigh of relief. The commentator continued to praise our team before Ben grabbed the mic while I groaned.

"Excuse me, excuse me!" Ben spoke into the mic. "Excuse me, can I have your attention please?" Everyone quieted down and he got onto the cannon that they shot the players with. "There's something I'd like to say." He looked around, looking like a lost puppy.

"Get down, you moron!" I hissed, giving him my 'you better stop right this minute' look. But did he listen? No.

"Give me an 'M'!" Ben exclaimed. Everyone yelled 'M'. Audrey smiled, thinking that he was going to spell 'marry me'. I swear, if he does, I'm going to murder him and then move into the forest. "Give me an 'A'!" Everyone yelled 'A'. "Give me an 'L'!" Everyone yelled 'L' and Mal's jaw dropped. "What does that spell?"

"Mal." I leaned to tell Mal, smirking in victory. Oh yeah, this was something worthy of my approval.

"Come on! I can't hear you!" Ben continued to yell. "I love you, Mal, did I mention that?" Everyone looked at her and she blushed, not used to the attention. I smirked as Audrey whimpered and ran away. "Give a beat!" Ben called to the band.

"Uno, dos, tres, cuatro!" Doug called, leading the band.

Did I mention that I'm in love with you?
And did I mention there's nothing I can do
And did I happen to say?
I dream of you everyday
But let me shout it out loud, if that's okay ay ay
If that's okay (Hey!)I met this girl that rocked my world like it's never been rocked
And now I'm living just for her and I won't never stop
I never thought that it could happen to a guy like me
But now look at what you've done, you got me down on my kneesBecause my love for you is ridiculous
I never knew
(Who knew?)
That it could be like this
My love for you is ridiculous
My love is R-I-D-I-C-U-L-O-U-S!
(R-I-D-I-C-U-L-O-U-S!)
It's (Ridiculous!)
Just (Ridiculous!)
And I would give my kingdom for just one kissWell did I mention that I'm in love with you
And did I mention there's nothing I can do

And did I happen to say?
I dream of you everyday
But let me shout it out loud, if that's okay ay ay
(Yeah!) If that's okayI gotta know which way to go, c'mon gimme a sign
You gotta show me that you're only ever gonna be mine
Don't want to go another minute livin' without you
Cause if your heart just isn't in it, I don't know what I'd doBecause my love for you is ridiculous
I never knew
(Who knew?)
That it could be like this
My love for you is ridiculous
My love is R-I-D-I-C-U-L-O-U-S!
(R-I-D-I-C-U-L-O-U-S!)
It's (Ridiculous!)
Just (Ridiculous!)
And I would give my kingdom for just one kiss, c'mon now!Alright! (Hey!)
Alright! (Hey!)Because my love for you is ridiculous
I never knew
(Who knew?)
That it could be like this
My love for you is ridiculous
My love is R-I-D-I-C-U-L-O-U-S!
(R-I-D-I-C-U-L-O-U-S!)
It's (Ridiculous!)
Just (Ridiculous!)
And I would give my kingdom for just one kiss, c'mon now!

Through all the dancing and singing, Ben had somehow ended up in front of us. He leaned down to kiss Mal but she ducked away, Ben chuckled and wrapped his arm around her shoulders. "I love you Mal, did I mention that?" Ben told her.

"Chad's my boyfriend now!" Audrey said, stealing the microphone. "And I'm going to the coronation with him. So, I don't need your pity date." She ended with kissing Chad. I stole the mic from her and handed it to Ben, purposely staying between him and his ex.

"Mal, will you go to the coronation with me?" Ben yelled, yes, *yelled,* into the mic.

"Yes!" Mal said, smiling.

"She said yes!" Ben cheered, everyone congratulating them. Everyone focused back on the victory of the tourney game when Mal and I noticed Evie looking at Chad.

"You know, I feel really sorry for Audrey." Mal told her.

"You do?" Evie asked.

"Yeah." Mal nodded. "I feel like if she were talented like you and knew how to sew and knew beauty tips that she wouldn't need a Prince to make her feel good."

"Yeah, I guess I am pretty talented." Evie smiled.

"You are definitely talented. My mom has banned me from going near any sewing project because of my track record. Let's just say that needles are not my friends." I added with a smile. "And let's face it, if Chad chooses someone like that over you, then he does not deserve you."

"Your good at lots of other things though." Evie said.

"Just hanging out with animals." I shrugged.

"Come on, if anyone else dealt with everything you do at your age, they'd crash within minutes." Mal informed me, very serious. I smiled thankfully. Maybe I could finally make some friends outside of Ben, because I hadn't been the most social person in the world.

*****(2 Days Later)*****

"What's wrong?" I asked Mal as she dragged me along with her.

"I'll explain once we find Evie." Mal informed me. Don't ask me how, but for some reason, I was now considered a part of the VK group. I had been invited to eat lunch with them and at least one of them had come looking for me almost every day since the tourney

game. Each of them needed help, Carlos with schoolwork, Jay with different issues he had with classes, Evie with Chad (I told her to punch him if he bothered her--I'd vouch for her), and Mal with advice on to work with the puppy version of Ben.

"There are you!" Mal told Evie, who was sitting next to Doug. "I have been looking for you literally everywhere!"

"What's wrong?" Evie asked, looking at me. I shrugged, having *zero* clue.

"Ben just asked me out on a-" Mal stopped herself and growled. "-a date."

Doug chuckled while Evie smirked. "We can handle this." Evie assured. "Bye." She told Doug. "You're looking a little pale." She started with Mal, all of us walking towards their dorm room.

"I don't mean to interrupt the load of fashion tips that I'm going to remember forever, but is there a Dovie ship on the horizon?" I asked.

"Dovie?" Evie asked.

"Ship?" Mal asked.

"Ship as in relationship." I explained. "When two people get together or are attracted to each other, people who like that relationship will call them a ship name and say that they 'ship' them. A ship name is a combination of both parties names. So the ship name for Evie and Doug is Dovie."

"What's Ben and Mal's ship name?" Evie asked.

"Bal." I answered. "It's kinda hard to change it since both of your names are so short."

"Okay, so I ship," Mal started, checking with me to make sure she was doing it right. "Dovie. You guys would be so cute!"

"But enough about possible relationships, we have a boy to shock." I smirked, opening their dorm door. Evie put on Mal's make-up after I

picked out an outfit and made Mal put it on.

"Okay, easy on the blush." Mal told Evie. "Don't want to scare him away."

"Please, my mom taught me how to apply blush before I could talk." Evie rolled her eyes. "Always use upwards strokes."

"My mom was never really big on make-up tips." Mal sighed. "And I never had a sister."

"My mom doesn't use it." I shrugged, looking at all of Evie's make-up items.

"Well, now you do." Evie told Mal before turning to me. "You too Dawn. You're apart of our little group now, rather you like it or not. So, if you need help with make-up or dresses or anything fashion, come see me."

"Will do." I smiled.

"Now time for you to see your outfit." Evie smiled, putting Mal in front of the mirror. Mal gasped before breathing out a giggle. "I know." Evie said.

"I look..." Mal started.

"Say it!" I called.

"...not hideous." Mal finished. Evie and I exchanged eye rolls and smiled.

"Not even close." I smiled. We all giggled and a knock was heard. I gestured to the door with great flourish, making both of them smile at my antics. "Your date is here!" I sang to Mal. She opened the door and smiled.

"For the first time, I understand the difference between pretty and beautiful." Ben said. Mal snorted and Ben smiled. "I hope you like bikes." Ben told her, handing her a helmet. They left and I closed the door, Evie and I sighing in unison.

"Ah, young love." I smiled.

"You've heard about our possible love interests." Evie started. "Is there any love on the horizon for you?"

"A girl who spends most of her waking hours working and arguing with Council members, speaks her mind, an experienced sailor, adventurer, swordswoman, and cares about the Isle. Who would like a girl like that?" I listed off, shaking my head. "No, I don't think anyone would want to date someone who would care more about work than them."

"You'd be surprised." Evie smiled, confusing me.

Chapter 4

Wapun (Dawn) POV:

"I don't get it, was the date a flop or not?" I asked Ben as we got ready for family day. It had been two days since Ben took Mal to the enchanted lake, but I had been too busy with work and school to ask either parties about it.

"It was good, but..." Ben started.

"But...?" I asked.

"...she love spelled me." Ben sighed.

"That explains why they were worried when Lonnie ate it." I remarked. "So, do you actually love her still, or no?"

"I think she was just worried that she wouldn't be able to get me away from Audrey so she turned to the way she was raised." Ben stated. "So to answer your question, yes, I do love her."

"Alright." I smiled. "And that's your number. Ready?"

"Oui m'dame." (Yes ma'am.) Ben answered me in French.

And after his little song and dance, I roamed the premises. Spotting Evie, I moved towards her and we both giggled at the sight of Carlos and Jay attacking the chocolate fountain. "I'm so sorry about them." Evie apologized.

"No, by all means, let them have fun." I smiled.

"There's my morning dawn!" A familiar voice called, making me spin on my heel.

"Dad!" I called, running to him and letting him scoop me up into his arms. "I thought you and mom weren't going to able to make it!"

"We took a little break. Can't be here long, but we couldn't miss family day." Dad smiled.

"Momma." I smiled, hugging her. While I got my hair and eyes from my dad, my tan skin and love for nature and animals were from her. "I so glad you were able to make it."

"So are we." Mom nodded. "I heard that you brought some of the kids from the Isle over here."

"Yes!" I smiled, thrilled that they remembered. "Evie! Carlos! Jay!" I called, seeing the Mal was talking with Ben and his family. "Mal is now Ben's girlfriend so she's meeting the royal family for the first time." I explained. "Guys, these are my parents, John and Pocahontas Smith."

"You're the man who picked us up at the Isle." Carlos blurted out.

Dad smiled and chuckled, sticking his hand out. "That's right. Wapun here asked me, and I'm a sucker for her puppy-dog-eyes." He informed, shaking all of their hands.

"He's a sucker for her, period." Mom corrected with a fond smile. "It's so nice to meet you all. Are you adjusting well to Auradon life?"

"It's okay." Jay shrugged.

"Dawn's helping us out, *a lot*." Evie smiled.

"Yeah, she's like that." Dad chuckled.

"Hello, I'm right here!" I teased.

"Dawn!" Ben called. "Come on you guys, we're going to play croquet." I rolled my eyes but smiled.

"I get him an amazing girlfriend and he's still as needy as ever." I complained, rolling my eyes at their matching smiles and amused expressions. "Alright, onward to hell everyone." Twenty minutes later, the only people playing were Jay and Ben. The rest of us were talking. A surprised 'you!' got my attention as I was saying good-bye to Mom and Dad.

"I love you and will see you guys later." I told Mom and Dad, kissing them both on the cheek and seeing them to their car before going back to the others.

"Queen Leah, it's okay." Ben told her as I came to stand beside Mal. "Maleficent is still on the Island. This is her daughter Mal. Don't you remember my proclamation to give the new generation a chance?"

"A chance to what Ben?" Queen Leah asked. "Destroy us? You remember, don't you? The poison apples and the spells. Spells. My daughter was raised by faires because of your mother's curse. Her first words, her first steps, I missed it all."

"I'm so-" Mal went to apologize.

"No-" Chad said, moving in front of her.

"Chad." I warned, clenching my fists and glaring at him. "Stay out of this."

"They were raised by their parents, Ben, Dawn." Chad continued. "What do you think Villians teach their kids, huh? Kindness. Fairplay. No way, okay, uh-huh. You stole another girl's boyfriend."

Jay went to defend his friend when Chad pointed at him. "You enjoy hurting people." Chad accused before moving to Evie. "And you. You're nothing but a gold-digger and a cheater."

"Take that back Chad." I ordered, my voice holding a dangerous undertone.

"Why should I?" Chad asked.

"Because you insulted my friends, that doesn't make me very happy. And you don't want to see me mad." I smirked.

"So you ignore us and pick these villains as your friends?" Chad exclaimed, getting close to me. "I guess you're not much better than them though." He scoffed before going back to Evie.

One thing I didn't mention about my necklace. It also allows me to take away someone's strength. I closed my eyes and concentrated,

opening them as Jay started to push Chad away from Evie as her mirror spoke the truth about him being the 'biggest jerk in the land'. I opened my eyes and snapped my fingers, smirking as Chad withering in pain before being knocked out.

Grabbing Jay and Carlos's wrist, I followed Evie and Mal before letting go and running ahead of them. "Come on guys, I know a good place." I said, leading them into the woods. I stopped at a treehouse nodding up it. "Sorry about that. It was uncalled for."

"How did you knock Chad out?" Mal asked.

I fingered my necklace. "It's one of the few magical things that managed to escape FG's grasp." I explained. "Believe me, she was not thrilled with me." I unlocked the door and placed the key back where it was. "Stay here as long as you want. Just make sure you lock it back." I informed, stepping and away and leaving. So much for getting more friends.

*****(Next Day)*****

Smoothing out my dressing and slipping on my heels, I let out a shaky breath as I looked into the mirror. Evie had sent my dress over this morning, giving me some different accessories to choose from. Looking over them, I chose the headband and put it on. "You done yet?" Lonnie asked. She was still mad at me for siding with Ben and the VK's, but I really didn't care. I walked out of the bathroom and sent a tight-lipped smile her way before leaving.

Once I was downstairs, I stroked Drifter's muzzle. I was riding behind the carriage that Ben and Mal were going to riding in, so of course I chose the black stallion to be my mount. I had taken out my new black western tack and polished it, deciding that the extra work was worth the comfortable riding. I had also given him a bath and shined his hooves.

"Don't be nervous." Ben told Mal as we went along the street. "All you have to do is sit there and look beautiful. No problem there."

"Thank you." Mal said.

"Mal, would you wear my ring?" Ben asked.

"Umm..." Mal hummed, biting her lip. "Not now. I think it would probably just fall right off me." I groaned, leaning on my saddle horn so I could hear their conversation. Did it probably look weird to everyone else? Probably. Did I care? No. The ship Bal was more important. "I have something for you!"

"For me?" Ben asked.

"Yeah." Mal nodded. "It's just for later, you know, when you need strength. Some carbs to keep up your energy."

"Always thinking." Ben commented, lifting it up. "But I can't wait."

"No!" Mal screeched as he took a bite of it. How interesting this must look to the outside eye.

"Hmm." Ben hummed. "This is really good."

"Uh, do you feel okay?" Mal asked.

"You bet." Ben smiled.

"Would say that your still in love with me?" Mal questioned.

"Not sure." Ben shrugged, sending a wink my way. "I mean, let's give the anti-love potion a few minutes to take effect." Mal nodded her head, clearly not hearing what she was agreeing to. I chuckled, shaking my head.

"Okay." She said. "What?" She asked after a beat. Ben and I laughed, amused. "Both of you knew?"

"That you spelled me? Yeah." Ben answered. "Yeah, I knew."

"I can-" Mal started.

"Look, it's fine." Ben interrupted. "I mean, you got a crush on me, I was with Audrey, you didn't trust that it could happen on its own. Am I right?"

"Yes." Mal nodded. "You're so right. So then, how long have you known?"

"Enchanted Lake." I answered.

"Your spell washed away." Ben continued.

"So, then what? You've just been faking it since then?" Mal asked.

Ben put his ring on her finger and kissed her hand, smiling at her. "I haven't been faking anything." Ben reassured as we pulled to a stop. I stopped Drifter and dismounted, telling him to behave and not hurt anyone. I came behind the couple and followed Belle and Beast, smiling and waving at the people.

Once we were all inside, I smiled at Ben as he walked down the aisle. Once he reached us, he kneeled and I helped FG up the steps. She took the crown and placed it on his head, Beast and Belle smiling at their son. They then took out the wand and FG started her speech. "Do you solemnly swear to govern the peoples of Auradon with justice and mercy as long as you shall reign?"

"I do solemnly swear." Ben smiled, keeping his eyes on FG.

"Than it is my honor and my joy to bless our new king-" FG was interrupted by Jane grabbing the wand. "Child, what are you doing?"

"If you won't make me beautiful, then I'll do it myself!" Jane cried, not being able to control the power. "Bibbidi-Bobbidi-Boo!"

"Take cover!" Beast ordered. Mal ran and wrestled it out of Jane's hands, holding it above her head so she couldn't reach it. I let out a sigh of relief, but then realized just what was going on.

"Mal, give me the wand." Ben ordered.

"Stand back." Mal warned, and I looked up to see the other three running into the hall.

"It's okay." Ben assured.

"Ben, I said stand back!" Mal ordered.

"I told you so!" Audrey called.

"Not the time Audrey!" I yelled, glaring at her.

"Let's go." Carlos said, them reaching her.

"Revenge time." Jay said.

"You really want to do this?" Ben asked, looking at Mal. I closed my eyes, concentrating on my powers. The last couple of times I had tracked them, the trail had gotten whiter.

"We have no choice, Ben." Mal explained. "Our parents-"

"Your parents made their choice." Ben interrupted. "Now you make yours." I opened my eyes to see her light, where her heart was located, slowly turn from grey to white. I smiled, knowing what was going to happen before my eyesight changed back to normal.

"I think I want to be good." Mal said.

"You are good." Ben stated.

"How do you know that?" Mal exclaimed.

"Because..." Ben started. "Because I'm listening to my heart."

"I wanna listen to my heart too." Mal decided, slowly putting the wand down. "And my heart is telling me that we are not our parents. I mean, stealing things doesn't make you happy. Tourney and victory pizza with the team makes you happy! And you, scratching Dude's belly makes you happy, who would've thought. And Evie. You do not have to play dumb to get a guy. You are so smart. And I don't want to take over the world with evil. It doesn't make me happy. I want to go to school. And be with Ben. Because Ben makes me really happy! Us being friends makes me really happy. Not destroying things. I choose good, you guys." Mal finished, putting her fist out.

"I choose good too." Jay said, smiling and putting his fist out too.

"I choose good." Evie said, joining her fists with the others.

"So," Carlos stopped and chuckled. "just to be clear, we don't have to be worried about how *really* mad our parents will be?" Carlos asked, the four laughing. "Cause they're going to be really really mad."

"Your parents can't reach you here." Ben spoke up.

"Okay then." Carlos decided. "Good." They all laughed again while Ben and I exchanged smiles.

"Come on." Mal told Ben, nodding for him to join the connected fists. "You too, Dawn. You're stuck with us."

"I can't think of anyone better to be stuck with." I chuckled, joining my fist with them and smiling. Everyone was clapping when a loud thunderous sound happened. A green smoke came and revealed the one and only Maleficent.

"I'm back!" She said, the place turning dim.

"Go away, mother." Mal said, annoyed.

"You're very funny." Maleficent crackled, turning to look at us then back at Mal. "Wand me! Chop, chop!"

"No!" Ben cried as Mal started to give it to Maleficent, but then she threw it to FG. FG caught it and started her 'Bibbidi-Bobbidi-Boo', but Maleficent interrupted the 'boo' and then I couldn't move, couldn't speak, couldn't see, nothing. Then I jolted awake by Ben and Beast roaring. I steadied myself, looking around to see everyone alright.

"Okay, okay." Mal said, stopping Ben. "We kinda got all of this wrapped up here." Ben smiled and picked her, spinning her around.

"Next time, I rescue you, okay?" Ben asked.

"How about there not be a next time?" I exclaimed, rubbing my temples. "Oh, I can already see the paperwork!" They chuckled, Mal and Ben hugging before she went to talk to FG and Jane. "I'm

blaming you for this, by the way." I told Ben, coming to stand beside them. "This has got to be a new record, not even two seconds in on the job and danger hits!"

"You ever think about joining Drama Class?" Carlos asked me.

"No, why?" I asked.

"Because you are very dramatic." Evie answered.

"Well, I don't have time to be in Drama Class." I sighed. "Between keeping this one in check and keeping the Council happy and sending supplies to the Isle, I have my work cut out for me."

"Hey!" Mal objected, coming back over to us. "Careful." She told an attendant. "That's my mom."

"That sounds weird." I commented, chuckling.

"Let's get this party started!" Jay called, the six of us all in a shoulder-to-shoulder 'group hug'.

Chapter 5

[image]

Wapun (Dawn) POV:

"We should help her." I remarked as Ben and I watched Mal get asked a million questions by the press.

"We should." Ben agreed before taking a bite of an apple, neither of us moving to help her. At the question that involved Maleficent, we looked at each other before moving our way through the group. "Okay, okay, excuse me." Ben said while I just elbowed my way through.

"We will let you know if and when that particular situation changes." Ben informed them. The reporters went to ask another question but I stepped up.

"This is a school, so if you are here, you are either skipping or trespassing." I stated, glaring at all of them. "Now, leave." I ordered, making a herding motion for them to leave. Mal let out a sigh of relief, nodding thanks to me while Ben chuckled.

"Don't pay any attention to them." Ben said.

"Well, that's a lot easier said than done." Mal chuckled.

"You know, maybe we should do something." Ben suggested, smiling as I cocked my head and raised my brows as the press tried to get back to the couple, grabbing them by the coat and pulling them in front of her. I was used to dealing with the press, and they knew not to push my limits. "We should go somewhere, get away."

"I can handle everything." I spoke up, scaring both of them. "But right now, you are late for a Council meeting." I told Ben.

"We will be going somewhere though." Ben promised, going to kiss Mal goodbye when Evie came up from behind her.

"If we don't do a fitting for your gown right this minute, you will be dancing in your bathrobe." Evie told Mal before turning to face me. "Same with you. Let's go, both of you." And with that, Evie dragged Mal and me off to their dorm.

"Okay, Evie, I cannot breathe." Mal protested as Evie tightened her dress.

"Well, you can breathe after the cotillion." Evie smiled.

"I sincerely doubt that." Mal remarked. "I have at least 20 more events directly behind it and I can't even remember what a single one of them is. How can you handle this?"

"You get used to it." I shrugged, twirling in my dress. "But, I do have an amazing memory, so..."

Mal sighed. "E, do you ever think what we'd be doing if we were back on the Isle right now?"

"That's funny." Evie laughed, but by Mal's face, she wasn't joking. "Ahh, look who's on TV!" Mal chuckled and sat down on her bed as Evie checked my dress. "Do you like it?"

"Evie, I don't like it," I started and her face fell. "I love it!"

"Oh, you little!" Evie exclaimed, laughing with me. The sound of Mal's magic grabbed our attention and I shrugged while Evie sighed. "I know Mal's secret to fitting in and Ben wouldn't like it one bit."

"Evie." I hissed. For getting thrown into this so suddenly, I thought Mal was doing really well.

"Haven't you guys had enough secrets between the two of you?" Evie asked, slightly relenting at my warning.

"Evie, you remember what I was like before I started using my spellbook." Mal sighed. "I mean I was a complete disaster."

"Well, personally, as your best friend I strongly believe that this spellbook-" Evie grabbed the book. "-belongs in the museum beside

my mirror. Don't give me the face." Evie scolded Mal as she pulled out the puppy-dog eyes.

"Don't look at me." I raised my hands as both their gazes turned to me. "I've been Ben's friend for years, I'm immune to the puppy-faces."

"Don't you ever miss running wild and breaking all the rules?" Mal asked Evie, referring to the Isle.

"You mean stealing and lying and fighting?" Evie confirmed.

"Yeah!" Mal smiled.

"No." Evie shut down. "Why would we?" Evie clearly was not getting the message that Mal missed the Isle and the life she had there. "M, come here and look at where we are! We're in Auradon, and we're Auradon girls now." The TV continued to talk about Mal and Ben as I slipped out of my dress and back into my regular clothes.

"Sorry to interrupt this little pep-talk, but I have to help Jane with some plans for the Cotillion." I smiled hesitantly, grabbing my buckskin bag that contained all of my papers. "Thanks for the dress, Evie." Both girls nodded and I left, grabbing my phone.

"Hey Dad." I answered.

"Hey Dawn." Dad responded. *"How's the preparation for Cotillion going?"*

"It's a headache."

"Well, I'm sure that you can handle it all. I was just wanting to know how you're doing, and also remind you that we're going over to drop off supplies at the Isle Friday if you want to come."

"Oh shit, I forgot about that." I cursed, groaning. "Uh, yeah, I'll be at the docks around 6?"

"In the morning, right?"

"Of course." I grinned.

*****(Next Day)*****

Walking between Jay and Carlos, I rolled my eyes at the subtle flirting between the boy on my right and the surrounding girls. Since Jay had come from the Isle, he became famous for being a huge jock and extremely popular with girls. "Why do you torture them?" Carlos asked. "Just pick someone to go to Cotillion with already."

"I'm going solo." Jay smirked, his brown eyes coated with a layer of mischievousness. "That way, I can dance with all of them."

"Ahh." Carlos hummed in realization.

"I see now why you consider yourself the expert." I thought out loud, my mind still building arguments for the next Council meeting.

"What's going on in that pretty little head of yours?" Jay asked me.

"Just thinking about how I'm going to go about presenting the next step of bringing more kids from the Isle over here." I answered, moving my braid to the other side.

"Always thinking." Evie chuckled.

"When's the next supply trip again?" Carlos asked.

"Tomorrow...I think." I trailed off. "What's today again?"

"Thursday." Jay answered.

"Okay, then Friday, tomorrow." I stated. "Why? Do you guys want to come with us?"

"No, but can you check in on someone for me?" Evie brought the negative responses to a close as Jay and Carlos went into the discussion of Carlos asking someone out, that someone being Jane.

"Of course, who?" I asked.

"Her name is Dizzie, and she works at her step-mother's hair salon."

Evie started.

"The Evil Stepmother?" I questioned.

"Yeah." Evie confirmed, looking worried.

"Evie, I said I'll go check on her. I will." I assured. "Is she any good?"

"What?" Evie asked.

"Dizzie, is she any good? Like with hair and stuff?" I clarified.

"She used to do my hair all the time." Evie smiled. "So yeah, she's pretty good."

"Then maybe I'll just get my hair done." I smirked. "I've been thinking about changing it up some anyway."

"Well, just ask her, and she'll get you fixed right up." Evie smiled. I opened my mouth to continue asking her questions about some makeup tips when my phone started going off. Seeing the reminder for the Council meeting, I growled in annoyance. "What are you arguing with them now?"

"Building supplies." I answered. "They don't seem to think that they need them. Anyway, I have to go before I'm late. Talk to you guys later."

*****(Next Day)*****

"Dawn!" I looked up to see Dad's first mate, Thomas. "I was fixing to think that you wouldn't be joining us today."

"And miss the chance to have some fun without getting in trouble?" I smirked. "Thomas, you underestimate me."

"I think everyone that meets you does." Dad chuckled. I smiled and hugged him before going to my position, helping with the sailing. Once we got to the Isle, I helped dock before jumping off the boat and onto the shore.

"I'll be back in about 30 minutes to an hour." I informed Dad before

starting to walk through the maze of alleyways and streets. Ducking into the shadows once I reached the hair salon, I heard the sound of yelling and things getting thrown/breaking. Waiting, I cocked my head as a teenage boy came outside, waving a hook around with some money. It was easy to tell that he had the fear of the surrounding people, leading me to believe that he was in some sort of position in power.

Waiting until he was out of sight, I entered the building. "Are you Dizzie?" I asked, scaring a poor girl.

"Uh, yeah, tha-that's me." The girl stuttered out.

"Dawn Smith." I introduced myself, holding out a hand.

"I know who you are." Dizzie smiled slightly. "The people here have a love/hate thinning of you."

"Delightful." I said sarcastically, observing my surroundings. "Evie told me to give this to you." I told her, handing her a letter. Dizzie's face instantly lit up, taking the letter eagerly. As she read it, I looked through an open notebook full of drawings. "Is everyone here really good drawers?" I mumbled.

"Do you mind waiting while I get some stuff for you to give her?" Dizzie asked.

"Of course not." I smiled as she gathered some stuff together. "And while you're at it, why don't you think of doing something with my hair and nails?"

"You want me to do your hair and nails?!" Dizzie asked, her eyes wide.

"Yeah." I nodded, smiling encouragingly.

"Let me get my stuff!" Dizzie squealed. I chuckled in amusement and took the stuff she handed me and stuffed it in my bag. "Anything in mind? Any restrictions?"

"Evie said you had a very creative mind and that she trusts you." I relayed. "Have at it." Dizzie squealed again and began working. 25

minutes later, she spun me around in the chair.

"Oh my god." I gasped, my jaw dropping.

"What?! Did I do something wrong?!" Dizzie exclaimed, worried.

"Oh no, not at all." I reassured, playing with my new hair. "You do better than the hairstylist I go to in Auradon." I complimented, smiling as the girl blushed. "And the nails, these are perfect!"

"Really?" Dizzie beamed.

"Yeah." I smiled. "Here." I said, getting out of the chair and handing her a bag of money.

"Oh no, I couldn't." Dizzie shook her head, trying to give me some of it back.

"Yes, you can and you will." I stated. "This is about how much I pay in Auradon, and you do such a better job then them."

"Thank you!" Dizzie exclaimed, throwing her arms around me. I smiled and hugged her back.

"Anyway, I better get going." I smiled, leaving the shop as I played with my hair. Once I reached the dock, Dad raised his eyebrows at me. "Like it?"

"It's definitely different." Dad chuckled. "What made you want to change it?"

"I just wanted to." I shrugged, boarding.

"Well either way, it looks nice." Dad smiled.

"Thank you." I smiled.

Chapter 6

Wapun (Dawn) POV:

"You did what?" I exclaimed, looking at the two boys. Upon arrival from the ship yesterday, I had given Evie Dizzie's letter, spoken to Ben, then went horseriding for the rest of the day. I spent the night at my treehouse and came back late at night so I wouldn't get caught by FG. Originally wanting to play video games with Carlos, I had been met with the sight of them 3D printing FG's wand. Oh, and for some reason or the other, Dude could now talk.

"We took Ben to the Isle of the Lost, he got kidnapped, they're demanding the wand, so we're 3D printing one to trick them." Carlos summarized.

"This is why I don't take days off." I sighed. "Why did you take Ben to the Isle?"

"Because Mal went back." Jay answered.

"Why did Mal go back?" I asked.

"Because she and Ben got into a fight about Mal using magic to fit in." Carlos answered this time.

"So?" I asked. "I use magic all the time!"

"Apparently it's different for them." Jay sighed. "Or, at least, it was."

"Just add one more thing I have to fix onto my list." I groaned, plopping down on Carlos's bed beside Dude.

"You try to fix everything." Dude spoke.

"That's because it's my job." I deadpanned, narrowing my eyes at the dog. "Alright, I'm going with you guys."

"No way." "Yeah, no." Carlos and Jay said at the same time.

"You really want to explain to my Dad why you're stealing the limo and remote to open the magic barrier?" I asked, raising a brow.

"You wouldn't." Carlos shook his head.

"Wanna bet?" I smirked.

"Okay, you can come." Jay caved after a brief silence. Another brief silence was held. "And what happened to your hair?"

*****(Few Hours Later)*****

"Yo, bozos, wake up." I called kicking both of the boy's chairs. I had changed while they were asleep, knowing that it wouldn't be ideal to be fighting in the clothes I previously had on. "Wands done." They were both enchanted by how real it looked and Carlos smirked as he grabbed it.

"Kinda hard to believe that you four were trying to steal that only a couple of months ago." I chuckled.

"Yeah...it is." Jay mumbled.

"Anyway, let's go." I called, leading the way outside. We were interrupted by Doug.

"Oh hey." Doug smiled slightly. "Have you seen Evie?"

"Yup." I nodded, taking the lead on this conversation. "Us five went camping, but we forgot some stuff so we had to come back."

"Evie 'I want to live in a castle', sleeping on the ground with no place to plug in a hairdryer?" Doug clarified.

"It's at one of my places." I confirmed. "Anyway, gotta go." Once we

got away from him, I sighed in relief only to yelp when Lonnie appeared out of seemingly nowhere, carrying swords.

"I'm going with you guys." Lonnie stated.

Jay opened his mouth to reject but I interrupted. "Alright, load up." Lonnie squealed in excitement, clearly not expecting me to say yes. After everyone loaded up, I started the limo and began driving. It wasn't long before we arrived on the Isle. While the boys got the swords and 'wand', Lonnie and I went to meet Evie and Mal.

"Lonnie, Dawn?" Mal asked, not believing her eyes.

"Dawn said I could come." Lonnie explained as she hugged both of them.

"And do you really I'd let you guys save the puppy alone?" I asked, raising a brow.

"Ooh." Mal hummed, making grabby hands for the 'wand'. "Let me see it. Wow, what a beauty."

"It's noon." Jay informed.

"Alright." Mal sighed. "Are we ready?"

"Yeah." Evie voiced while the rest of us nodded.

"Let's do this." Mal stated before leading the way into a tunnel. Carlos and I bringing up the end of the group, we both looked around our surroundings and gave a shiver. It was like the Isle itself knew that something big was happening. As we entered the smaller docks, the pirates began cheering and moving.

"Does that boat actually work?" Lonnie leaned over to ask me.

"Nope." I shook my head. "It's currently sitting on coral reef, so the thing can't be moved without creating a big hole in its hull."

"Welcome!" The boy I had seen outside of Dizzie's shop the other day said sarcastically. When I mentioned him to Carlos and Jay on the ride over here, I learned that his name was Harry Hook. Of

course, this meant that I was now remembering every bit of information that I had ever read about the kid and his family.

"Finally!" A sea-green/blue-haired girl laughed, doing a little happy dance.

Huh, let's get this party started
I swear I'm cold-hearted
There's no negotiation
I'm not here for debatin'
You need some motivation?
Just look at Ben's face
Then ask yourself how long you think I'll remain patient
I'll throw him overboard and let him swim with killer sharks
You either hand over the wand or he'll be ripped apart

The girl, who I assumed was Uma, sang. I rolled my eyes as she mentioned 'killer sharks'. There were no sharks in the waters of the Isle, only sea life that could be eaten.

(Mal):
Now, let's all just be smart
Although for you that must be hard
You'll get your wand
No one has to come to any harm
Don't try to intimidate
Your bark is much worse than your bite
Who's the baddest of them all?
I guess we're finding out tonight

(Pirates):
Let's go, bring it on
Better give us what we want
It's the wand for the crown
If you don't, it's going down

(VK's):
Let's go, make your move
Peace or war, it's up to you
Give him up and do it now
If you don't, it's going down

(Pirates):
We want the wand
Or else the king is gone
Your time is running out
You should really watch your mouth

(VK's)
Let's go, pound for pound
We're prepared to stand our ground
Put your swords up, put 'em up
It's going down

Me and the others leaped over the sides of the dock, coming to stand beside Mal as we sang. I stayed back further behind, gathering my magic in preparation. I had a feeling that we were going to have to use force.

(Pirates):
Oh, oh, oh, make the trade
Oh, oh, oh, or walk the plank
Oh, oh, oh, make the trade
Oh, oh, oh, or walk the plank

(Mal):
Ok, look, this is not a conversation
It's a do-or-die situation
If you don't give me back the king
I'll have no hesitation
I'll serve you right here
And I don't need a reservation
That way your whole pirate crew can have a demonstration
Release him now, and we can go our separate ways
Unless you wanna deal with me and the VKs

(Uma):
So that's your big speech, huh?
An empty ultimatum?

(Harry):
All it takes is one swing and I'll humiliate him
Matter of fact, make one wrong move and I'll debilitate him

And if he even starts to slip, I'll eliminate him
All it takes is one long look and I'll

(Uma):
Harry! We get it, chill

(Pirates):
Let's go, bring it on
Better give us what we want
It's the wand for the crown
If you don't, it's going down

(VK's):
Let's go, make your move
Peace or war, it's up to you
Give him up and do it now
If you don't, it's going down

(Pirates):
We want the wand
Or else the king is gone
Your time is running out
You should really watch your mouth

(VK's):
Let's go, pound for pound
We're prepared to stand our ground
Put your swords up, put 'em up
It's going down

(Ben):
Hey, we don't have to choose
We don't have to light the fuse
Mal, whatever you do, it's gonna be a lose-lose
There's gotta be a better way
Uma, I promise I'll give you your chance
You'll have your say

(Uma):
Silly king! You? Give me?
You're gonna give me a chance?

Well, not a chance

(Pirates):
Oh, oh, oh, make the trade
Oh, oh, oh, or walk the plank
Oh, oh, oh, make the trade
Oh, oh, oh, or walk the plank

(Pirates):
Let's go, bring it on
Bring it on, it's going down
Time is running out
Bring it on, it's going down
Let's go, bring it on
Bring it on, it's going down
Time is running out
Bring it on, it's going down

(VK's):
Let's go, pound for pound
We're prepared to stand our ground
Put your swords up, put 'em up
It's going down

(Pirates):
Yo, whoa, whoa, whoa, yo, oh, whoa, whoa, oh
Yo, whoa, whoa, whoa, yo, oh, whoa, whoa, oh

Mal began to hand Uma the wand when Uma held up her hand. "Hold up." Uma stated. "Mmm. Too easy. Why don't you give it a test drive? We want to see it work."

"You always were quite the drama queen." Mal scoffed.

"Oh, and nothing too big, or else Ben is fish bait." Uma threatened. Seriously, is this how threatening these kids are? Do they really think that this is scary or intimidating? I've stared down a grizzly bear and seen a war before. This is nothing.

"We're dead." Carlos mumbled. Mal looked at Ben then back at us, and both Carlos and I nodded subtly to where Dude was located.

The dog had smuggled himself onto the Isle, and was now following us around.

"Okay." Mal sighed. "Although it seems absurd, turn your bark into a word." Mal waved the wand around and then there was silence. Mal smiled in irritation and turned back to Dude. "Talk dog."

"Does this vest make me look fat?" Dude asked. The pirates began laughing again as Dude continued to talk, now wanting food. The laughter started making me clench my jaw to keep from killing them right now.

"They aren't very intimidating." Lonnie hummed.

"More of an annoyance and irritation, not a threat." I shrugged, mentally calculating the distance I'd need to swim if Harry pushed Ben off the prank.

"Give me the wand." Uma demanded.

"Give us Ben." I retorted, smiling sarcastically. Uma glared at me and I raised my eyebrows, not moved a bit.

"Harry, bring him over." Uma ordered, the boy bringing my irritation of best friend over reluctantly. I grinned as Harry grumbled about losing the chance of doing something. As soon as Mal handed Uma the wand, I pulled Ben up, very harshly.

"Dawn, I know your mad-" Ben started.

"One, I'm not mad, I'm furious. Two, not the time." I growled, trying to push him along. However, we were not lucky, and fighting broke out. Snapping my fingers, I unsheathed my sword and began fighting, using my magic to weaken some of the pirates. Spotting Ben fighting a losing fight with one of the pirates, I grabbed a rope and swung across the docks, landing in between them. "Go!" I ordered Ben, blocking the blows from the boy.

Hitting my sword on the back of the pirate's feet, I kicked him into the water and went on to the next opponent. Spotting Jay pretending to throw the hook into the sea and Harry diving in after it, I laughed as I caught to hook after Jay threw it. Picking up

Harry's sword, I stabbed it into a woodblock and watched amusingly as the pirate got back out of the water. "Give it back." He snarled.

"Why should I?" I taunted, smirking. Harry snarled and started to tackle me but I started using my power on him, making him sink to his knees in pain. However, before I could hurt him too badly or permanently, I spotted a silver token. Using my sword to bring it into view, I clenched my jaw before letting him go. Running after the rest of my group, I fought back the memories rushing to the surface. As soon as Mal and Uma separated, Evie threw down a smoke bomb and we 'disappeared'.

Together, Mal and I kicked the connecting bridge off, cutting off the shortcut from the dock to where the limo was kept. We ran back to the limo, me dragging Ben beside us before throwing him in. Getting into the driver's seat, I started the car and took off. When we got back to Auradon, Ben was going to have the scolding of his lifetime.

Chapter 7

Flashback; Third Person POV:

"Don't stray too far!" John called to his adventurous 4-year-old daughter.

"I won't, Daddy!" A much younger Wapun smiled, running off. The Smith's were in charge of outfitting the Isle before the Villians began to arrive, which led to Wapun to exploring every bit of the island whenever she could. Today was the last day of their stay, so the little girl was making the best of it. Skipping down an alleyway, she first went to the smaller docks.

Hearing yelling and screaming coming from a boat, Wapun shuddered in remembrance of how grateful she should for having such caring and attentive parents. Spotting a boy around her age run off the boat with an angry and drunk man behind him, Wapun cocked her head and thought about the records she had read from her father's lap. Not remembering who the drunk was, Wapun melted into the shadows and followed the boy to a hidden cove.

"You alright?" Wapun asked quietly, scaring the boy. "Sorry." She mumbled. So used to her parents being able to her nearly silent footsteps, the little girl didn't often think about making her footsteps audible. Seeing the boy's worried and borderline scared look, she raised her hands in surrender. "I'm not going to hurt you."

"Who are you?" The boy asked, his voice surprising firm.

"Are you okay?" Wapun asked, taking in the forming bruises and bleeding cuts.

"I'll be fine." The boy scoffed, repeating his question. "Who are you?"

"Wapun." Wapun introduced.

"W-wa-wapan?" The boy tried to sound out, making the girl laugh.

"I'm not laughing at you." Wapun reassured. "It's just that most people don't even try to say my name. They just ask what it means."

"Well, what does it mean?" The boy asked.

"Dawn." Wapun answered, a blanket of silence following. "You probably need to wash those cuts up."

"But the saltwater stings!" The boy complained. Wapun rolled her eyes, nodding for him to follow her to the back of the cove.

"Sit." She ordered, pointing to a rock. Moving a couple of rocks, Wapun smiled as she found the small basin of spring water. Tearing a piece of her jacket off, Wapun soaked it briefly in the water before dabbing the cuts.

"What's that necklace mean?" The boy asked.

"It's my tribal symbol." Wapun explained. "It means that if I ever need help, I can go to our allies and get help."

"Help." The boy mumbled. Watching his defeated expression, Wapun took it off her neck and put it around him. "What are you doing?"

"If you ever need help with anything, you can come and find me." Wapun smiled, naive to the fact that she wouldn't be able to help him because of the barrier. "How old are you?"

"Five." The boy mumbled, playing with the trinket. "You?"

"Four, almost five." Wapun smiled, finishing cleaning the cuts. "I better get going." Starting to leave, she stopped when the boy said something. "What?"

"I didn't tell you my name." The boy stated, his blue orbs meeting Wapun's hazels. "It's Hook. Harry Hook."

Wapun (Dawn) POV:

As soon as we entered the schoolyard, I changed clothes in a bathroom and came outside with Evie. "We need to talk." Evie stated, both of us on either side of Mal.

"Yeah." Mal nodded.

"No." Carlos stated, surprising all of us.

"'No'?" I asked, raising a brow.

"You guys are always going off into a huddle, whispering your girl-stuff or whatever..." Carlos trailed off. "and Jay and I are tired of it." By the look on Jay's face, he really hadn't noticed.

"Carlos, it's 'girl-stuff', that's why the girls talk about it." I stated slowly.

"Yeah, but we're your family too." Carlos continued. "The four of us, we've been through a lot. Together. And Dawn, you seem to fit right in. We're not stopping that now. Everyone sit." Too stunned by the fact that Carlos had given us an order, we all sat down. "I don't know how to start girl talk." Carlos added after a brief moment of silence.

"That's because it's girl talk." I repeated, playing with the fringes on my vest.

"What up?" Jay suggested, briefly clearing the tension as we shared a chuckle.

"Umm...well..." Mal trailed off before scoffing. "I'm a mess. I'm such a mess. I mean, six months ago, I was, you know, stealing candy from babies. And now everyone wants and expects me to be this Lady of the Court, and I have no idea how to keep up the act."

"Then don't." Carlos shrugged.

"See? This is dumb." Jay huffed, starting to get up.

"Maybe it wasn't." Evie stated.

"Mal, if Ben and Auradon don't like you for who you are, then there is something wrong with them." I stated gently. "There's nothing with being a kid from the Isle."

"Dawn's right." Evie nodded. "We're always going to be the kids

from the Isle. I tried to forget it, I really tried. But, those are our roots. And we all did what we had to to survive, but it made us who we are. And we're never going to be like anyone else here. That's okay."

"And we can't fake it." Carlos shook his head. By now, I was starting to feel like I was intruding on something private.

"No." Evie agreed.

"Yeah, I mean, especially without my spellbook." Mal added.

"As Dawn said earlier, if Ben doesn't love the real you, then he's not the one." Carlos repeated.

"I like that." Evie smiled, threading her fingers into my hand.

"Give him a chance." I told Mal quietly.

"I'm gonna make some changes to your dress." Evie informed Mal. "And if you're up to it, only if you're up for it, it'll be waiting for you, okay?" Mal nodded and Evie and I hugged her. Everyone standing up, I played with my hair and walked to my dorm. Opening the door and seeing that Lonnie was asleep, I went over to Mal and Evie's dorm.

"She'll be okay." I told Evie.

"I know she will." Evie smiled. I stayed in their dorm until Jay came in. He was about to ask Evie something until he spotted me.

"Oh, there you are Dawn." Jay smiled. "Can I borrow you for a minute?"

"What for?" I asked, raising a brow.

"Well, I'm going to make some adjustments to the team, but I need you there to make sure that Chad doesn't cause a problem." Jay summarized.

"So I'm going to be able to witness Chad being put in his place?" I asked, my eyes sparkling.

"Basically yeah." Jay nodded after some thought.

"Say no more." I stated, grabbing his arm and pulling him alongside me. "Where are we going?" Jay chuckled and explained the plan to me as he led me to the practice room, where all the fencing team was gathered.

"Alright." Jay smiled. "Yall know I come from the Isle, right? Things are pretty whack. But there is one thing that the Isle's got on Auradon. If you're strong, we want you on our side, girl or boy."

"Hey Jay," Chad chuckled, interrupting Jay. "We don't break the rules here, not like on the Isle."

"I know, that's why I brought Dawn here." Jay smirked. "Any of you who have taken the time to know her knows that she's an amazing swordswoman. Also, she's the one who makes a lot of the rules here."

"However, this is simply a loophole." I chuckled, taking out the rulebook for fencing. "'The team shall be comprised of a captain and eight men.'" Jay and I smirked at Chad's confused face. "So, give it up for you guy's new team Captain." Lonnie took the cue to enter, smiling widely. Jay gave her the whistle as I silenced Chad's protests with a warning look.

I chuckled as Lonnie ordered the boys to give her ten, high-fiving her as I exited. One problem down, now on to Bal's. Knocking on Ben's office door, I opened it and frowned at the sight of his empty desk. Getting out my phone, I went through my contacts and found Debra, Ben's secretary, number. Of course, it went to voicemail. Hanging up without leaving a message, I left the office and started roaming the halls.

I was stopped by Chad's voice, except it wasn't anywhere near his dorm. Following his voice, I came to a stop in front of Carlos and Jay's room. Amused at his screams of 'Audrey!', I snorted as Carlos came to stand beside me. "Chad. This is my room, Chad." Carlos stated. "What..." Rolling his eyes, Carlos sighed in frustration.

"Audrey?" Chad answered his phone. "Yeah?...Yeah!?...Well yeah,

that's wonderful news." He turned to inform us of the conversation. "She got a flat tire in Sherwood Forest and she wants me to go and fix it."

"That's six hours away." Carlos informed.

"Really? Only six?" Chad asked.

"And do you even know how to fix a flat tire?" I followed up.

Chad ignored my question and turned back to the phone. "I'm going to be there faster than I thought." He hung up by kissing the phone. Carlos and I exchanged annoyed looks.

"Can't you expel him or something?" Carlos whispered to me.

"I wish." I sighed. Sadly, Ben was still higher than me and could revoke that order.

"Uh-uh. My printer, my crown." Carlos stated, stopping Chad from leaving. Taking the crown off Chad's head, Carlos handed it to me.

"Oh." Chad mumbled. "Yeah...about that..." He continued to stutter before laughing. "Right." Leaving the room, he yelled loudly his statement that he was going to save Audrey.

"That kid is going to be the death of me someday." I groaned, leaving Carlos to go get ready for Cotillion. Yelping in surprise, I was pulled from the hallway into Evie and Mal's bedroom.

"You forgot to pick this up." Evie stated, shoving my dress into my hand. "Also, here's a bracelet that Dizzie designed."

"Oh Evie, it's beautiful." I smiled, taking the necklace. "Do you happen to have a barrette that matches it?"

"Yes, I do." Evie smiled, handing one to me. "And-"

"Don't worry, I'll be talking about her to every single press person there is." I reassured, leaving the room with my accessories.

*****(That Night)*****

Adorning the barrette and bracelet, I used my gold tribal symbol to clip the ends of my cape together. Putting on the finishing touches to my makeup, I slipped on my heels and stood in front of the mirror. "Perfect." I smiled. Walking outside, I mounted Drifter and rode to the cruise ship where Cotillion was being held. Spotting Jay, Lonnie, Carlos, Jane, Doug, and Evie, I smiled.

"Dawn, who are you wearing tonight?" Someone from the press asked.

"Well, my dress was designed and made by Evie, but my bracelet and barrette were designed and made by a fabulous new designer, Dizzie from the Isle of the Lost." I stated.

"When did you cut and dye your hair?" Someone else asked.

"Yesterday." I answered. "It's a nice change." After answering some more questions, I was able to leave and I went to stand beside my friends. Apparently, I was just time, as Lumiere announced Mal. We led the cheering of Mal on, as I leaned over to whisper to Evie. "I like what you did with the dress." Evie retrieved Mal from Beast and Belle, and I smiled as I wrapped my arm around Mal's arm. We also clapped as Ben entered.

Ben walked down the steps and Evie and I, in perfect sync, told Mal to 'go get him'. Everyone was confused as Uma walked out, Ben going to greet her. "Benjamin Florian!" I hissed, growling. Everyone looked at each other in surprise, no one expecting this. As Ben escorted Uma to the center of the deck and the music began, I grabbed Mal's hand.

"Come on Mal." I said gently, bringing her over to our friend group.

"Not too thrilled that I risked my life for him." Carlos stated from my left as we watched Mal and Ben dance.

"We're with you, Mal." Lonnie told the girl on my right.

"Let's get out of here." Jay said.

"That's a good idea, because I'm about to strangle him." I growled, leading the way towards the exit of the boat.

"Mal." Beast stopped us.

"Honey, we're so sorry, we had no idea." Belle told her.

"I'm going to talk to him." Beast promised.

"You sure you can talk to him without tearing his head off? Because I know I won't be able to." I interjected. Beast's response to me was interrupted by Lumiere announcing a gift from Ben to his lady. Rather he meant Mal or Uma, I don't know. At least, I didn't until a stained-glass piece was revealed, showing Mal as her true self.

"Ben did that?" Mal asked.

"It appears so." I hummed. Our group had a little discussion about Ben loving the real Mal, while Uma appeared to be furious. I guess her plan was starting to fail. She showed her true colors by ordering something harshly, however, I was distracted by a massive migraine attacking. Backing away, I sat down and tried to block out the yelling, but it didn't do any good, especially when I opened my eyes to see Uma turn into a form similar to her mother's.

As the battle between Dragon-Mal and Octopus-Uma continued, the ship began moving side-to-side. Utilizing the skills that had been ingrained in me from birth, I expertly walked across the deck and grabbed Ben to keep him from falling. "You are going to be the death of me someday." I growled. "Now you created this mess, and once again, I'm going to have to fix it."

Shoving my cape, heels, and jewelry into Evie's hands, I was extremely grateful for the shorts I was wearing underneath my dress as I dove into the water. "Mal, stop." I ordered once I surfaced.

"What are you going to do, princess?" Uma laughed. "Splash me?"

"No, I'm not." I stated. "Listen, you're hurt. You're hurt that Ben and I picked the Core Four instead of you. You're hurt that you weren't the first choice. You're hurt because you think that you were forgotten. You weren't. I promise you, you and everyone else on the Isle weren't forgotten. You wanting to bring down the barrier isn't just for you, it's for every kid on the damn island that hasn't had a

chance."

I took a deep breath before continuing. "Uma, that's what a true leader does. They don't just care about themselves and what can benefit them, they care about their people. Help us make a difference. Help us, not as someone below us, but as another leader." Uma sighed and handed me Ben's ring, ignoring Mal's warning roars. She dipped below the surface and I was left stunned. I had honestly thought that she'd take me up on the offer.

Swimming back to the ship, I climbed up the ladder that Jay, Ben, and Carlos threw down. My dress was sopping wet and I was more grateful for my short hair. Handing the ring back to Ben, I blushed as everyone cheered for me. I was used to behind-the-scenes work, so the recognition was something foreign to me.

Mal landed in front of her and Ben's painting, patting out the ashes that had fallen onto her dress from her transformation. Maybe I should yell more often, it really seemed to help with my anger. I went with Evie to escort Mal to Ben, all three of us exhaling. "So, I did not know I could do that." Mal started.

"That makes three of us." Evie chuckled. "I didn't know that you could speak such good speeches."

"That also makes three of us." I giggled. "Shall we?" I asked, Evie and I offering Mal a hand on either side.

"We shall." Mal smiled. Once we reached the middle of the deck, Ben grabbed Mal's waist and kissed her.

"Alright, alright." Carlos chuckled, breaking them apart.

"I owe you guys so much." Ben started.

"Ya think?" I asked sarcastically, putting a hand on my hip. Our group laughed, knowing our long my scoldings could get. "This is the second time I've saved your life, in a day! Not to mention the fact that-"

"Alright, you can scold him later." Jay interrupted.

"If there is anything you need, anything at all-" Ben started again.

"You could start by actually helping me with the second batch of VK's." I interrupted. "Evie and I put together a list."

"Yes, yes, absolutely." Ben smiled. "After all, you did both talk and fight your way out of me having to suffer the consequences."

"Damn right." I scoffed.

"Lady Mal." An escort interrupted our banter, holding Mal's spellbook. "We found your spellbook below deck. Uma had it."

"Oh." Mal hummed. "Um...you know, this seems like the kind of thing that belongs in the hands of Fairy Godmother. Fairy Godmother!"

"Okay, that's me." FG smiled, pushing her way through the crowd. "Thank you, mhmm."

"This belongs in the museum." Mal stated.

"It does, yes." FG nodded, turning to me.

"Oh no, the necklace stays with me." I stated, covering it with one hand while holding the other hand out. "You will die before you get this and stick it in the museum." Everyone laughed at my statement, FG's defeated face making it so *so* much better.

Chapter 8

Wapun (Dawn) POV:

"Are you sure about this?" Dad asked, handing me my backpack.

"Yeah." I nodded. Seeing his worried look, I smiled. "Dad, I'll be fine, I promise."

"I know, but you're going to be isolated on this island without any friends or any way to contact us." Dad sighed. "And for the entire summer, no less."

"The entire summer is only three and half months." I chuckled. "Besides, I can take care of myself."

"Why are you even doing this?" Dad asked.

"Because if I'm going to be stepping up with the duties surrounding the Isle, I need to know what it's like to live here." I smiled. "And I do have a friend, Dizzie."

"From what I've heard, Dizzie isn't useful in a fight." Dad mumbled, but I still caught it.

"Dad, for heaven's sake, I'll be fine." I groaned. "I'll come and see you every time the boats come into the dock." Dad finally relented and left, leaving me alone on the Isle. I had convinced Ben to let me live here for the summer, so here I was. Evie and Mal had directed me to the Core Four's old hangout place, so that's where I'd be staying. Making my way through the streets, I threw a rock at the sign and entered the stairwell to the apartment.

Tossing my backpack onto a makeshift desk, I dropped down on Mal's bed, choosing to claim it. Hit with a sense of inspiration, I grabbed a knife and tucked it in my boot before exiting the apartment. Walking the memorized streets to Dizzie's, I slid open the door after making sure there was no one inside. "Hey Dizzie." I

smiled, accepting the hug that accompanied a squeal from the said girl.

"What are you doing here?" Dizzie asked.

"Well, I'm going to live here until school starts." I answered. "I assume that you already know about going over to Auradon?"

"Yes!" Dizzie squealed again, both of us looking up at her grandmother's yell. "Sorry Gram!"

"Anyway, I was wondering if you wanted to help me choose a building to start setting up safe places for kids to stay at." I explained the reason for my visit.

"Evie's idea?" Dizzie asked.

"No, actually it was Carlos's." I answered. "So?"

"I'd love to!" Dizzie exclaimed, making me laugh at her excitement. However, it was short-lived, as I heard the door open and a familiar sound filled my ears.

"Ahh, the magical girl who almost squeezed my guts out." Harry Hook hummed, his hand still on that horrid hook.

"Yup, that's me." I smirked. "And I can do that at any time, especially if you hurt my friends."

"Your friends with that runt?" Harry barked.

"She's not a runt." I growled, my smirk widening when he held back a groan as he felt the effects of my necklace. "I'll see you tomorrow, okay? Bye Dizzie!" I called cheerfully, grabbing Harry by the ear and dragging him outside with me.

"Yeah..." Dizzie's confused reply followed us outside.

"Alright Hook, you better listen, and listen good. As long as I'm here, if I get word that you even looked at Dizzie that wrong way, I'll use your own hook and gut you like a fish, understand?" I warned.

"Holy Hades, are you always this aggressive?" Harry groaned, holding his stomach.

"It comes from having to lay the law down to a Council full of old men when you're only a kid." I shrugged. "Anyway, you savvy?"

"Yeah." Harry nodded, sufficing my concerns with his honest and sincere look so I started to leave. "Wait!" He called, making me roll my eyes and sigh before slowing down so he could catch up.

"What?" I snapped.

"Easy spitfire, I was just wanting to ask you something." Harry chuckled, back to his confident and flirty self. I cocked a brow and he took that as a sign to continue. "At the docks, why'd you stop from killing me?"

"Memories." I answered, coming to a stop outside a junkyard. "Now you better go unless you want to be put to work." Harry raised his brows but didn't comment, simply raising his hands in surrender and backing away before walking off. I rolled my eyes again and entered the junkyard, starting to go through some stuff for the 'safe houses', as Carlos had dubbed them. After grabbing some pieces of fabric for bedding, I left the junkyard after paying for it and going back to the apartment. Making sure everything was secure, I laid on Mal's bed and wrapped my hand around a knife, falling asleep quickly.

*****(Week Later)*****

Waking early, like 5 in the morning early, I grabbed an apple and bit into it. Deciding to not change, I finished my breakfast quickly and left the apartment. Walking back to the hair salon, per usual, Dizzie was already waiting outside for me. "Alright good madam, lead the way to the building." I said with a mock posh accent. Dizzie laughed and we started walking. After we had pinpointed several locations, we had gone over a list of Pros and Cons that Dizzie had made.

Choosing to only start one for now, we chose a suitable site and I paid the previous owners for it. Today we'd begin building bunk

beds and the sort. Leaving the fabric I'd found the previous night with Dizzie, I also supplied her with a needle and thread to start sewing until I found a good sewing machine. She informed me of a shop where I could find one and I left her to go get it. About halfway there, I sensed someone trailing me. Slightly stiffening, I continued on my way, ready to attack someone if need be.

They chose a dark alley to pull me into, making me roll eyes as I caught sight of the gleam of a certain metal piece--Harry's hook. "What the hell are you doing?" Harry hissed.

"Talking to an idiot." I answered sarcastically.

"I'm not an idiot!" He protested.

"Yes, you are." I nodded. "Why else would you pull a girl into a dark alley when you know full well that she could kill you with a snap of her fingers?"

"Because I want to know why the hell your doing!" He whisper-yelled.

"God, you really are an idiot!"

"I am not an idiot!"

"Yes, you are."

"No, I'm not."

"Uh-huh."

"No."

"Yes."

"No."

"Yes."

"No."

"Yes."

"No."

"Yes."

"No."

"No." I smirked.

"Yes--I mean--you tricked me!" Harry exclaimed, making me smile in victory. "Will you just tell why there's rumors that you bought a warehouse?"

"Because I did." I answered honestly, deciding to spare him from further annoyance. "Why are you so concerned about it?"

"Because...I don't know." Harry sighed, his shoulders deflating. Watching him for a minute as I considered my options, I chose to continue telling him about the idea.

"Carlos asked that when I come over here, that I start up at least two safe houses for children that need a place to sleep and some clothes. There's a shipment of all sorts of new clothes coming over on the next supply ship." I explained. "Dizzie's the only person I know here and she has such a kind heart that I thought 'why not include her in on the process?'. After all, she does know more about the Isle than I do."

"Why?" Harry asked, finally meeting my eyes. "Why do so much for us? We're the bad guys."

"Because if Mal, Evie, Jay, and Carlos changed, I believe that everyone can." I shrugged. "Now is that all? Because Dizzie's working really hard on some bedding and I need to get a sewing machine to make it easier on her, and after that, I need to start making some bed frames for the kids." Not getting a response from the pirate, I left the alley and continued on my way. After buying a sewing machine and taking it back to Dizzie, I began looking over some plans for the beds.

Apparently I had zoned out, because Dizzie startled me when she tapped my shoulder. "Hey...uh...how did you convince Harry and Gil to help us?" She asked awkwardly, jerking her fingers over her

shoulder. Looking behind her, I blinked a couple of times to make sure I wasn't imagining the two pirates standing in the doorway.

"What the hell are you two doing here?" I asked, crossing my arms in hopes of helping to resist the urge of taking my knife and stabbing both of them.

"Thought you may need some help." Harry shrugged, looking slightly uncomfortable while Gil acted like a Golden Retriever. Cocking my head and narrowing my eyes at them, I looked from them to Dizzie, then back to them. After a pregnant silence, I turned around and grabbed a scrap piece of paper, and began writing on it.

"There's a supply ship coming in today full of things for the place." I informed, handing Harry the note. "Give that to the Captian and he'll know to send the stuff with you. Some of the crew should help you, just direct them where to go. But don't order them around. Do that, they'll probably gut you like a fish."

"Thanks for the warning." Harry nodded, leaving the building with Gil behind him.

"How did you manage that?" Dizzie asked after another moment of silence as I continued drawing up plans.

"I have no idea." I shrugged, just as baffled as she was. About an hour later, Harry led the procession of crew members to the spot and I took over, directing them where to put things. Soon we were left with things towering all around us while Dizzie's new sewing machine filled what would be silence.

"Now what?" Gil asked.

"Now, I began building." I smirked, eager to get my hands working. Grabbing a toolbox, I unboxed one box and spread everything out. "Hook, take this and get us some food." I ordered, tossing him some money.

"You sure you can handle the food here?" Harry asked, amused.

"Thanks for the concern, I've had to deal with the rations for the army. Believe me, nothing can be as bad as that." I reassured,

pointing at where Gil needed to put the wood. Harry shrugged and left the building, leaving Gil and me to start putting the beds together. When Harry returned, we had already finished one bed and was starting on another. Taking a break to eat, I hid a smile as I finished my food. As I had guessed, the army rations were worse than the food here on the Isle. Well, at least the food that I got.

Jumping off the ledge of the loft, I cracked my knuckles and smiled. This was what I lived for, helping the people that needed help.

Chapter 9

Third Person POV:

Dawn threaded her way through the streets, carefully and quietly making her way towards the Jolly Roger. It had been about a month since she came to the Isle and three weeks of Gil and Harry helping her and Dizzie make a home for the kids. On Thursday, for the first time, Harry hadn't arrived. According to Gil, he hadn't seen Harry since the last time they had. Concerned for someone she now considered her friend, Dawn had taken off during the weekend and made her way to where she suspected he was.

Sneaking onto the Jolly Roger was no easy feat, but Dawn managed and was soon roaming below deck. Hearing the crack of a whip, she quietly trotted towards the sound. Stifling a gasp, she breathed out sharply at Harry's shaking and bloody form with his father standing behind him, Hook holding the whip. Checking around to make sure that there was no one other than the three of them and coming up with a plan, Dawn took the time to thank the Great Spirit for telling her to wear her leather gauntlets today.

Emerging from behind the crates, Dawn snapped her arm out and the end of the whip wrapped around her leather-covered wrist. Ripping it out of Hook's grasp, she wrapped it up and stuck it in her belt while the older man collected himself. Snarling, Hook unsheathed his sword and ran to kill the intruder. Instead, he was met with a resounding clang of two swords meeting each other and an icy stare. Dawn narrowed her eyes and pushed Hook back, the two engaging in a dangerous battle.

Finally succeeding in driving him back temporarily, Dawn slammed him into the side of the ship and used her necklace to drain his strength enough to knock him out. Quickly but securely tying him up as well as gagging him, she sheathed her sword and knelt beside Harry. "Harry?" Dawn murmured, untying the boy and taking off her oversized coat. Thanking the Great Spirit again, this time that the coat was large for her so it fitted Harry, Dawn's head snapped

up as the older Hook started to move.

Putting Harry's arm over her shoulder and lifting him, Dawn proceeded to drag him across the floor and to the semi-safety of the crates. Observing the ship and where everyone was, she deduced that she wouldn't be able to carry Harry the way she came. Lighting a match, Dawn lit some straw on fire and threw it below deck. As everyone started yelling and putting out the fire, she dragged Harry off the ship and into a hidden cranny of the docks. "Seriously? Him again?" Dawn groaned as Hook ran out of the hold and started shouting orders to find the two teenagers.

Looking around the cranny, she discovered that it was the same cranny that Harry had used to get to the hidden cove when they first met. Kneeling, Dawn fireman-carried the younger pirate to the cove. Setting him down on his stomach, she went to the cubbyhole where a small stream of spring water was. Grabbing a bowl, Dawn noted the changed surroundings. It seemed that Harry had outfitted the area, so she guessed that he stayed plenty of nights here. Leaving the subject, she filled the bowl and knelt beside the pirate. Taking off her now-bloody jacket, Dawn tossed it to the side and tore Harry's the rest of the way so she could see the cuts clearer.

As Harry started to stir, he jerked as he became conscious enough to feel someone lightly touching his sensitive back. "Woah tiger, I'm not going to hurt you." Dawn's soothing voice hit his ears, making him calm down. "I'm going to do something, and it's going to hurt a lot, but I need to clean it, okay?" Harry nodded in understanding, his fingers digging into the sand as Dawn poured alcohol on his back. "Where'd you get this at? I took a swig of it and it's pretty strong."

"Gil's good for more than just muscle." Harry mumbled, his voice hoarse. With others, he'd probably have to further explain what he meant, but not with Dawn. She understood that Gil had supplied Harry with some of his father's liquor from his tavern. Half an hour later, Dawn had cleaned Harry's back and wrapped it the best she could. Sighing as Harry stubbornly sat up, she started dabbing the cuts on his face. "What are you doing?"

"Isn't it obvious? I'm cleaning your cuts." Dawn raised her eyebrows

as she spoke, still concentrating on Harry's face.

"But shouldn't you be asleep or working?" Harry asked.

"One, it's 2 in the afternoon, two, it's Saturday." Dawn informed. "When you didn't show up Thursday or yesterday, I got worried and wanted to check up on you."

"You got worried about me?" Harry chuckled, amused by the new information.

"Yes, I did. I worry when my friends breaks habit. It usually means something's happened." Dawn deadpanned.

"Friend...?" Harry repeated, shocked.

"My friend." Dawn repeated, smiling at Harry's face. "After all, I promised I'd come to help you, didn't I?" She smiled, pulling out the silver arrow charm that wrapped around her family's tribal symbol. "I didn't have the time to tell you the significance of the arrow. Two arrows mean friendship, and one arrow means protection."

"You were that girl that helped me when I was a kid." Harry realized, looking at the girl from Auradon in a new way. "I thought it was all a dream."

"Why'd you keep the necklace then?" Dawn asked while starting a fire.

"It was a nice dream." Harry winced as he shrugged.

"Woah, you probably won't want to be moving too much. Your back is pretty torn up." Dawn advised.

"Nothing I haven't dealt with before." Harry groaned as he stood up, just now realizing that he didn't have a shirt on and it was nowhere in sight. "Where's my shirt?"

"Ruined, I used it as bandages" Dawn answered, not bothered by his semi-bare chest. Tossing the jacket to him, he caught it and turned it around, inspecting it. It was treated leather all the way around, making it waterproof. The inside was sealskin, slightly confusing

him.

"Is this yours?" He asked.

"Yup." Dawn nodded, popping the p. "Don't worry, it's way too big for me so it fits you fine." Harry shrugged and put it on, the sealskin inside immediately bringing warmth to his body.

"How is this so warm?" Harry questioned.

"Sealskin on the inside." Dawn pointed out. "It's the warmest animal skin/fur there is that's waterproof. All of my cold-weather clothes are made of it."

"Bet that's expensive." Harry mumbled, sitting down beside Dawn in front of the fire.

"Not necessarily. I catch and kill the seals." Dawn smirked, remembering the hunts her family went on in the Arctic. Since she had opted out to stay on the Isle this summer, she was missing a lot of the annual family trips.

"Why aren't you in school?" Harry asked, having only gotten the purpose of Dawn's visit.

"It's summer, I don't have school." Dawn answered.

"Well then don't you have some royal duties or something?" Harry pressed.

"No, Ben let me off for the summer. A horrible decision really, I'm going to be working for months to undo what they messed up while I was gone." Dawn sighed. "What's with the interrogation?"

"Trying to keep my mind off the pain." Harry answered truthfully, slightly surprising himself. "I've found that talking helps it. As I said before, this isn't the first time."

"I know." Dawn said, gazing into the fire. "I saw the scars on your back." Seeing Harry's ashamed and guilty face, she sighed and shook her head. "Harry, it's not your fault that your dad's a sadistic asshole and borderline psychopath." Harry glanced towards the girl and

finally took note of the sword laying beside her in the sand. As he already knew how efficient she was with the weapon, he chose not to mention it.

*****(Next Day)*****

Dawn woke up before Harry, both teenagers having fallen asleep on the beach. Standing up, stretching, and buckling on her sword, she walked over to the spring and took a drink of water. Harry woke up shortly after she came back from the apartment, a backpack in hand. Gesturing for him to lie on his back, Dawn began undressing his wounds and bandaging them again.

"Why do you care so much?" Harry's question took Dawn by surprise. Carefully thinking about her answer, he continued. "The other people in Auradon, they seem stuck-up and materialistic."

"I'm not like them. I don't care about things, I care about people. Not what they think, but how they feel. That includes the people of the Isle. But not everyone there's bad. Sure, some are that way, but others are kind and considerate." Dawn answered, shrugging. "There, that should be good. I got this shirt too. I think it was Jay's so it should fit you." She added, handing Harry a washed-out black shirt.

"Thanks." Harry slightly smiled, putting on the shirt and then the jacket. He had grown attached to the warmth, and Dawn hadn't said anything about it. "When are you going back to Auradon?"

"About two months." Dawn answered. "But I'll be back every time the supply ship comes unless I'm needed elsewhere." Harry smiled fully this time, amused by how the teenage girl answered the silent question.

"You are so different from anyone else I've met." Harry chuckled.

"Well, I'm not a pirate, nor an idiot, so that's understandable." Dawn teased, her head rolling to look at Harry.

"Rude!" Harry scoffed. Dawn rolled her eyes and slightly pushed the teenager, getting up and brushing the sand off. "Where ya goin?" He

asked, looking a little bit anxious about being left alone. Every time someone had shown compassion for him, they left, so it was understandable that Harry was worried that Dawn might not come back.

"I'm going to roam the Isle." She answered, starting to walk out of the cove. "You're going to be okay, I promise. I'll see you tomorrow."

*****(Approximately 2 Months Later)*****

"Do you have to go?" Gil groaned, he and Harry walking on either side of Dizzie as the trio had to trot to keep up with Dawn's fast pace.

"Yup." Dawn nodded, popping the p. "The ship's bout to dock, so I better get going." She told them. Gil and Dizzie said their goodbyes there, but Harry decided to walk her to the docks. They walked in comfortable silence, both content with the other's presence. As they reached the docks, Dawn turned to look at her newest friend.

"You know, Gil's right for once." Harry murmured. "We wouldn't exactly be complaining if you stayed."

"I already know that I'm going to have a mountain of work and thousands of meetings to attend/catch up on." Dawn sighed. "As long as you stick together, you'll be fine." She smiled, moving some of her hair out of her face. Biting her lip, she considered a reckless thought and decided for it. Standing on her tiptoes, Dawn pressed a kiss to Harry's cheek. "See you next month Harry."

As Dawn trotted down to the ship, Harry made sure she got on fine and was on her way before walking back to the cove. "Who was that?" Thomas asked the young royal advisor.

"A friend." Dawn smiled, watching Harry as he left. "Please tell me that Ben didn't do anything idiotic while I was gone."

"No, but I think he's waiting on you." Thomas informed and laughed as Dawn groaned in annoyance.

Chapter 10

Wapun (Dawn) POV:

"Okay, you're buttering me up for something." I stated, not buying Ben's innocent facade. He had given me a new office, a new computer, took me to the stables to see Drifter, and bought me a slushie on the way to school. "What is it?"

"I need your help." Ben stated.

"That's old news. Very old news." I remarked, already looking through my computer. All of my documents were already transferred, which helped a lot. "What do you need my help with?"

"I need advice on how to ask Mal to marry me." Ben finished.

"Shouldn't you be asking Evie or Carlos or Jay or even Jane?" I asked, cocking a brow as I deleted a lot of emails from the grumpy old men of the Council wanting to know where I was.

"Yeah...I guess so." Ben hummed in realization. "Anyway, how was your time at the Isle?"

"Amazing." I smiled.

"Really?" Ben asked. "So...did you meet anyone of interest?"

"You mean do I have a crush on someone?" I asked, cocking an eyebrow. Ben nodded, not holding eye contact. "Nope." I denied, narrowing my eyes as I considered Harry and I's friendship but quickly dismissed it. "Anyway, I'm going to go to bed. I'll talk to you in the morning."

*****(Two Weeks Later)*****

Finishing the single tiny braid in my forest-green hair while the rest was left down, I grabbed my bag and sprinted to the main square of the school. We were going to pick up the next four kids today, but

first Ben was going to actually get engaged to Mal. "You are so lucky that they're late." Evie informed me.

"Believe me, I know." I breathed out, gasping for air. "But, here they come." Evie gasped and signaled to Doug, her boyfriend leading the band in the music. FG stopped Mal from walking off the podium and she looked at me in confusion. I smiled assuringly and waved my fingers in greeting.

"Thank you Fairy Godmother." Ben smiled, taking the offered mic. He chuckled before yelling, "What's up Auradon?!" He was answered by yells and hollers while I looked up for strength to not strangle him. I had just gotten done untangling the mess he had managed to get himself into, but with my luck, another problem would appear on the horizon. "Thank you. Thank you so much for coming out to meet our new arrivals. They'll be here soon. It worked out pretty well for the first four."

Ignoring a comment from Chad, Ben continued. "Mal, this is the exact spot we first met not so long ago. I feel like I've known you my whole life. But did I mention, I'm in love with you?" He smiled as the crowd 'awwed' and Doug began playing the guitar while Carlos suddenly appeared on my right side. Slowly throughout the engagement song, the rest of our little gang surrounded us. Ending on one knee, Ben held out a ring. "Mal, it's you and me. It's you and me forever. Will you marry me? Will you be my queen?"

"No!" Audrey yelled.

"Yes." Mal nodded. Everyone started cheering again while I beamed at the happy couple as they kissed.

"What, did you two know?" Mal exclaimed, coming to hug Evie and me.

"Yes, Evie helped plan and I helped pick out the ring." I smiled.

"You are going to rock that crown." Evie assured. "Okay, so I've only done about 1,000 sketches of your wedding dress, and Belle's already planned an engagement party next week."

"Well, it's a really good thing I said yes!" Mal exclaimed, going to hug Beast and Belle. Rolling my eyes as Jay dragged me over to where everyone else was, I sighed, being quite used to getting dragged around now.

"All bow to her royal majesty!" Jay exclaimed as we all mockingly bowed.

"Oh yes, her royal purpleness." Carlos added.

"Silence, you annoying peasants." Mal played along in her mock posh accent.

"As you wish my liege." Jay stated.

"Your crankiness." Carlos teased. We continued talking and playing around until Ben herded us into the limo. Kissing Dad on the cheek, I got into the passenger seat as Jay got into the driver's seat. After arriving at the Isle, Evie and I were immediately tackled by Dizzie. Exchanging amused looks, we hugged the younger girl.

"Do you have everything?" Lady Tremaine asked Dizzie.

"Yes, I have everything." Dizzie nodded. I assumed that Dizzie didn't, because her grandmother had kept a hand behind her back the entire time.

"Are you sure?" Lady Tremaine checked.

"I'm sure Granny." Dizzie reassured.

"Oh really?" Lady Tremaine held up a glue gun.

"My glue gun!" Dizzie gasped.

"I don't know what you're going to do without me." Lady Tremaine commented.

"I'll miss you." Dizzie promised.

"Go on, go on." Lady Tremaine tried to shoo her off. Dizzie looked back at us and Evie winked while I smiled.

"Goodbye Granny." Dizzie hugged her grandmother, Lady Tremaine returning it happily. After looking around for the familiar flash of red, I got back into the limo.

"You looking for something?" Jay asked. "Or someone?" He smirked.

"Neither." I shook my head.

"She's-" Dizzie started.

"Zip it." I ordered, snapping my fingers.

"No, continue." Evie urged while I turned around to give her a warning look.

"You do realize that as King, I could order her to spill, right?" Ben asked.

"And you do realize that as your Royal Advisor, Auradon's Diplomat, and basically your secretary, I could make your life hell, right?" I countered, with a smirk. "Same for you, Mal. So there we go, all of the people in charge are taken care of. Dizzie, you spill and I'll tell Evie what you said." Dizzie quickly shut her mouth and I got comfortable again, completely proud of myself. We went through the barrier just fine, but Evie's 'It's Hades' caused Jay to slam on the brakes.

We all piled out of the limo, everyone not sure exactly what to do. "I am a god!" Hades yelled, quite furious, as his hair caught on fire. "I don't belong here!"

"Great, now there's that guy." I growled, trying to weaken him with my necklace. However, all I managed to do was wear myself out without taking away his strength. As he had said, he was a god, and I was a human with a magical necklace. Falling against the limo with Evie coming to make sure I was okay, I shook my head at Ben. And with that, the three boys ran towards him, only to be quickly knocked down. As Mal turned into a dragon, I shuffled over to the passenger door and shot myself with an adrenaline shot.

Once I had walked back to the end of the limo, Hades was blasting Mal. Focusing my magic again, I began to quench the strength of

the stone he was holding instead him himself. Eventually, with Mal's breath and the weakened state of the stone, Hades was blown back into the barrier. As I collapsed against Evie, we all rushed to make sure that Mal was okay. "Are you okay?" Evie asked, passing me to Carlos..

"No." Mal shook her head. "He was draining all of my magic with the ember, and I felt all of my powers slipping away."

"You're safe." Evie stated. "He's back where he belongs."

"Yeah, for now." Mal sighed.

"We should go." Jay stated and at Mal's 'ok', Carlos helped me to the passenger side of the limo and I groaned in annoyance. If a threat to Auradon's safety was going to occur every time we opened the barrier, where did that leave us? After all, Ben's and I's first obligation was to Auradon and its people, not our dream.

*****(Next Morning)*****

"I think we all know why we're here." Beast started us out. I sighed and ran my fingers through my shoulder-length forest-green hair, uncomfortable with the topic. At Ben's confused look, Beast continued. "The people are in a panic about Hades. He almost got out."

"Who knows what he would've done if he had escaped." FG added.

"We can't risk having another villain on the loose." Beast stated as I slipped away from the group and leaned against a wall.

"I really feel like this is my fault." Mal spoke. "I'm supposed to protect Auradon."

"You did, you do, protect Auradon." Ben assured.

"Every time we open that barrier, we're exposed to danger." Beast stated. "Maleficent, Uma, Hades." Just than, Ben's and I's phone dinged. Exchanging confused looks, we shrugged before looking. Taking a deep breath to calm myself, I started massaging my head. My migraines hadn't been coming for years, but now with all the

stress that had been happening lately, they were coming back.

"Maleficent's scepter and the Queen's crown's have been stolen." Ben announced and FG gasped.

"Uma." Beast stated.

"We don't know that Dad." Ben retorted.

"When people hear this, they will never wanna leave their houses." Belle informed. "What do we tell them?" Ben didn't know what to say, and so she turned to Mal. "Mal? What do we do? How do we keep evil out of Auradon?"

"I think that there's only...one way to guarantee their safety." Mal started. "And I think that there...can't be anymore going in and out. No more supply ships, no more helping them out. I think that we have to close the barrier...forever." Everyone nodded and Ben shook his head.

"No." Ben stated. "Dawn, back me up on this."

"I think that-" I started, standing up from the seated position I was in before stumbling. "-that-" I repeated before everything went black.

Third Person POV:

"Dawn!" Ben exclaimed, rushing to his best friend's side as Dawn passed out.

"She's just unconscious." FG reassured.

"What from?" Belle asked.

"She weakened Hades so I could blow him back into the barrier." Mal realized. "It was too much for her body."

"That was yesterday." Beast stated.

"She didn't sleep last night. Something about having paperwork that needed done." Ben sighed.

"Ben!" Mal exclaimed.

"What?! You know just as well as I do that she's a workaholic!" Ben threw his hands up.

"Enough you two. Right now, we need to get her to the hospital. There shouldn't be anything wrong, but we need to make sure of it." Belle put an end to the start of the argument, her motherly tone coming back. Ben and Mal nodded. After all, they were just going at each other from the stress of the most mature and probably the one with the best judgment person in the group suddenly collapsing.

Chapter 11

[image]

This chapter begins when the Pirates and Core Four are taking on the Knights. I didn't like the spell-dancing scene, so I decided to change it up a little bit.

Third Person POV:

Right as the group started to lose the fight against the Audrey-controlled knights, a flash of green was taking them on. Instantly, the knights began piling around the green-adorned person. After about 10 minutes of constant fighting, all of the knights were un-spelled and on the ground. The armor (green instead of blue) person chuckled and placed their twin swords in the sheathes on their back. "Dawn?!" The Core Four exclaimed at once.

"I sleep for three hours and when I wake up, Auradon is a mess." Dawn started, her hair secured out of her way in french braids. "I am going to be doing paperwork for the rest of my life because of this!"

"How are you awake?" Mal asked, the four now sure that this Dawn was really Dawn.

"This thing." Dawn explained, gesturing to her necklace. "Turns out that whatever spell Audrey used to put people to sleep or turn them into stone actually strengthens me."

"Okay, how do you know how to fight so well?" Jay asked next.

"One, I'm a trained knight. Two, my father is the captain of the Navy and an experienced swordsman. Three, I'm not your average princess." Dawn smirked.

"That's for sure." Uma scoffed, just now done taking in the newest

arrival.

"What's the pirated-three-Stooges doing here?" Dawn asked, looking between the others.

"They jumped through the barrier after crashing our bikes." Carlos sighed.

"So that's where it went." Dawn hummed, her eyebrows furrowing before she slapped the upside of Harry's head.

"Ow! What was that for?" Harry exclaimed, rubbing the back of his head. Uma raised her eyebrows, impressed while the others watched amused. Usually Uma was the only one who would be able to score a hit on Harry without getting hit (or worse) back, so this was very interesting.

"You crashed my bike?!" Dawn exclaimed, crossing her arms and glaring at the First Mate.

"Well I didn't know it was yours!" Harry reasoned. Dawn huffed and rolled her eyes, going over to where one of her knives had jammed a knight up. And at that, everyone was cheering about the victory.

"Guys, come on!" Evie groaned, clearly frustrated. Dawn looked up and raised her eyebrows in question, wondering why one of her friends was so worried. Seeing the separation of groups and the glaring looks while connecting the dots, Dawn nodded in realization and continued collecting her many weapons. "This was so great! We were a team. We worked together. Come on."

Seeing the mischievous look come over Evie's face, Dawn decided to stop the diaster before it even started. "Nope." She stated.

"What?" Evie asked innocently.

"We are *not* playing your version of 20 Questions right after I spent two hours figuring out what the hell was going on and then tracking you guys down." Dawn stated. "The longer Audrey has the scepter, the more powerful she gets. Now come on, because the timer's ticking."

"It's 'the clocks ticking', actually." Carlos awkwardly corrected.

"We're not children, Carlos. Treat the situation as it is." Dawn deadpanned. "Now, you guys can do whatever it is your doing after everyone gets what they want."

"How do you know I want something?" Uma asked, stopping Dawn from continuing.

"Because why else would you come?" Dawn quipped, raising a brow. "Your a leader, remember?" And with that, she left the two groups shell-shocked. Dawn, Celia, and Dude were about halfway down the hallway when they realized they weren't being followed. Celia and Dawn sharing a look, the two instantly connected the shared feelings of exasperation.

"Alright, where does this cheerleader bunk down?" Uma asked. "Even if she's not there, we might find some type of clue."

"Actually, she's still in the dorms." Evie answered.

"You're right, because of summer school." Mal nodded.

"What? Summer school?" Harry repeated with a sinister laugh. "Summer school? No wonder she wants revenge."

"You sure you still are attracted to him?" Celia leaned over to whisper to Dawn, who's head whipped towards the younger girl. "Sorry, I made Dizzie tell...what are you going to do to her?"

"Nothing." Dawn admitted. "It's *Dizzie,* I thought a simple threat would work."

"It did, does." Celia corrected. "She's scared to death of what you're going to do."

"Well, at least it's you instead of any of them. They'd tease/scold me for it." Dawn mumbled, nodding towards the Core Four. "An-"

"Dawn, you're going with the guys." Mal interrupted the Native American Princess.

"Why?" Dawn asked, looking between her purple-haired friend and the two pairs of guys glaring at each other.

"Because you're the only one I can trust to not let them tear each other to pieces." Mal said quietly.

"Right now, I probably would-" Dawn shrugged, really wishing for some chocolate as she closed her eyes to keep from showing pain from the sudden stabbing of cramps. "-and just for the hell of it."

"Just do it!" Mal pleaded. Dawn rolled her eyes and sighed.

"Hey!" Dawn called, interrupting the glare contests. "Tin-Man, Todo, Cowardly Lion, and Scarecrow, come on, we're going to the magical land of Oz." She named, pointing from Jay to Carlos to Gil to Harry. Harry growled at being called a scarecrow but didn't comment, choosing to instead knock shoulders with the only 'true' Auradon girl present. "Watch it." She growled as she passed him, leading the way into the woods.

"Ben!" Carlos yelled as they entered the woods. Harry was walking closely behind Dawn, who had been keeping at least one hand on a weapon of some sort. Jay didn't like how close the blue-eyed pirate was keeping to his friend, but he also figured that Dawn could take care of herself. Besides, Dawn seemed more amused at Harry's closeness than anything.

"These things just grow everywhere!" Gil exclaimed, looking at yet another blueberry bush. "Hey, let's play that icebreaker game!" Dawn rolled her eyes, realizing that Evie had still managed to introduce her 'game'. "Jay, I like the way that you can bounce around and jump off things. These are free right?" His eyebrows furrowed as he ate another berry.

"Yeah, um...I like how you get a kick out of a berry bush." Jay chuckled.

"I guess you've probably seen everything by now, huh?" Gil's smile faded. "Furry rocks. Giant fish. You're probably used to grabbing lunch off of a bush."

"No. I mean, no, not really." Jay smiled. "I mainly just use the vending machines at practice. You know, tourney, kind of eats up most of my time, so-"

"Tourney?" Of course, Harry had to get his two cents in. "That's a wee boy's game." Dawn giggled at the blue-eyed pirate's face as Gil and Jay ignored him and continued talking.

"Hey, you know what would be fun?" Gil started. "To go rafting on a jungle river."

"Find a lost civilization." Jay added.

"Oh, or maybe a penguin."

"Oh, well, you'd find those more in like icebergs, but I'd love to see one of those things."

"I thought Ben took you to zoo/aquarium already?" Dawn interjected, raising a brow from where she was leaning against a tree.

"No, he didn't." Carlos shook his head.

"That little liar!" Dawn huffed, rolling her eyes. "Remind me to take you guys there after this entire situation and the paperwork is over with."

"You guys are killing me!" Harry exclaimed, walking over to stand between Jay and Gil. He grabbed a berry with his hook and hummed at its taste, tossing one towards Dawn, who caught it easily. "P.S., your mutt went that way." This lead the group to continuing on their journey of following the only known talking dog in the world.

About an hour into traveling off-trail and deep into the woods, Gil asked an innocent question. "Do you guys know how to get back?"

"Uhh...no, actually I don't." Jay shook his head, Carlos also nodding.

"Well, I do, can we keep going now?" Dawn asked, eager to get this taken care of.

"You sure about that princess?" Harry asked, his wild blue eyes focused on the girl.

"Absolutely." Dawn smirked, pushing the ebony-haired pirate out of her way to continue the following Dude.

Another hour into the forest, Dude stopped. "Boy, something stinks. And it wasn't me this time." He informed. As if right on clue, a beast-like man jumped out of the trees and growled at them. It swung at Gil, though Carlos pulled the blond pirate out of harm's way. Jay punched the beast and Harry swung his hook at it, both boys shoving Dawn out of the way.

"You need some serious nose adjustments." Harry told Dude.

"I don't think so." Dawn stated, cocking her head and narrowing her eyes. "Ben? Did Audrey do this to you?"

"Huh!" Jay huffed. "I thought I recognized those pants."

"Oh, he's got a boo-boo." Gil realized. "That's why he's so cranky. You know, my dad said that his dad did not handle pain well at all."

"You're good with animals. Do something." Jay encouraged Carlos.

"But-" Carlos protested.

"Do I have to do everything around here?!" Dawn exclaimed, taking off her weapons and setting them down. Going around the two trees in her way, the Native American Princess snapped her fingers at Ben as he growled at her. "Oi! Don't growl at me, I'm the reason your kingdom doesn't descend into chaos every five seconds!" Ben swiped at her, Dawn slapping his clawed hand away as if it was a baby's hand. "Give me your hand Ben." The four boys watched anxiously from below as the teenage girl pulled the thorn out of Ben's hand and jumped back as he roared in pain.

Then Jane appeared out of nowhere and sprayed water at Ben. "Hey!" Carlos exclaimed, going to greet his girlfriend while Dawn jumped off of the hill and gathered her weapons. Taking her sword from Harry, she smiled thanks at him before strapping it on.

"I guess I can add Beastly-boy to my list of nicknames." Dawn teased Ben as Jay helped him.

"Oh, that was funky." Ben chuckled, sitting down on the log that Dawn had all her weapons laid out as she put them where they belonged.

"It was." Jay nodded. "There's..." He gestured to Ben's beard and fangs, the two boys laughing.

"You need another blast." Jane stated, Dawn dodging out of the way as Ben got another ineffective spray of water. The teenager presumed that it was from the enchanted lake, since that's where Jane's party had been at. "Huh. It's Enchanted Lake water. I guess it can only do so much."

"You owe that lake so much." Dawn teased Ben, slipping her last knife into its holder.

"Yeah, well what's up with all this..." Ben waved his hand around at her armor.

"I wasn't sure what exactly was going on when I woke up. Decided I'd rather be safe than sorry." Dawn explained, rolling her eyes as Harry started flirting with Janef. "Harry, down." She ordered, raising her eyebrows challengingly.

"Why?" Harry asked.

"Because she's scared of you, moron!" Dawn rolled her eyes again.

"Your not." Harry reasoned.

"That's because I can gut you like a fish without batting an eyelash." Dawn stated, her eyes making it clear that it was a hidden threat. The pirate rolled his eyes but went back to standing near the teenage girl.

"Hold on, who's side are they on?" Ben asked, looking to his best friend. Dawn shrugged, having not heard the entire story.

"They escaped and joined us." Jay explained. "And Mal has the

ember, which is our only hope to stop Audrey. Details to follow."

"Hades' ember?" Ben asked, clearly not getting the last sentence of Jay's statement. "Has Mal gone back to the Isle?"

"I said details to follow." Jay repeated. "We're meeting up with Mal, Evie, and Uma. Let's go."

"Uma?!" Ben exclaimed, Jay sighing and looking to Dawn for help. The girl was the only one who could get through to Ben easily, and right now they really needed to get going.

"Details to follow, meaning wait." Dawn stated, flicking the back of Ben's head. "Now come on, let's go." She started going but then stopped and turned as she didn't hear anyone following. "And if you say one more word Ben, I'll cut your-"

"Okay, we're going!" Carlos and Jane shut the spitfire down and twisted her around, pushing her back in lead. Dawn rolled her eyes yet again but continued, leading the way towards Evie's castle. As everyone reunited, the girl hugged Evie and Celia before going to stand beside Ben.

"I always knew you'd be part of the solution." Ben inform Uma.

"Excuse me! I was the one that said that!" Dawn slapped Ben's arm, huffing in annoyance.

"What is this?" Mal asked, tracing Ben's beard.

"Oh yeah." Ben smiled.

"I could get used to this." Mal smiled.

"You like it?" Ben chuckled.

"See, now you don't have to come crying to me every time you think about a wardrobe change." Dawn teased.

"Why do you always have to embarrass me?" Ben groaned.

"Because that's my job as your best friend, to embarrass you in front

of people, especially your girlfriend."

"I thought that's what sisters do."

"Well you don't have one, so I claimed that title."

"Anyway, I love this." Mal interrupted the banter.

"What about those?" Uma asked, gesturing to the fangs. Ben showed them off for Mal to see.

"No." Mal shook her head.

"I like them." Ben retorted. Sometime during this entire conversation, Harry had gotten closer to Dawn. So when she stepped back, she ended up stepping on his toes. Rolling her eyes at his yelp of surprise, Dawn chuckled at his glare.

"Okay, so, we all think that Audrey could be at Fairy Cottage." Mal informed, choosing to ignore how at ease Dawn and Harry seemed around each other. "We have no idea where it is. Did she ever take you there?"

"Every Fairy Godmother's Day." Ben sighed. "Where is FG when you need her?"

"I wish I knew." Jane sighed.

"This information probably doesn't help, but I think I saw a statue that looked like her when I was grabbing my armor from the Museum's basement." Dawn piped up.

"You store your armor in a basement? Of a museum?" Harry teased.

"Yeah, it's the most secure place in Auradon." Dawn reasoned, elbowing the pirate as he started chuckling, which only led to him laughing more.

Chapter 12

[image]

Third Person POV:

Following Ben and Mal to the Cottage, Dawn was carefully routing the shortest way back to Evie's castle. Ignoring the pirate beside her, she could practically hear him begging for attention. Okay, maybe it wasn't that severe, but Dawn did know that Harry didn't have to bump into her every few steps. With one particular bump that shoved the girl to the side, she glared at the blue-eyed pirate, who of course acted innocent. Moving back onto the trail, the Native American Princess shoved him, sending him stumbling off to the side. Normally she probably wouldn't be able to do that, but Dawn had caught him off guard. "Bully." Harry mumbled to her as he got back to the spot beside the teenager.

"I'm just returning the energy." Dawn teased, smiling. The smile quickly disappeared as they reached the cottage, her guard going up and immediately searching for any threats.

"Dawn?" Ben called, waving for his closest friend to come closer to the front.

"Yeah?" Dawn asked, raising a brow.

"Can you, do whatever it is you do?" Ben asked.

"Sure." She shrugged, closing her eyes and concentrating her focus and the jewel's energy on checking the house out. The others gasped in shock at how the Royal Advisor looked, none of them having seen her focus so much energy before. Dawn was surrounded by a white glow, wisps of it floating around her hands before shooting towards the cottage. The white wisps changed from white to grey to black to grey again before white, ranging from the white-to-black tones. Eventually opening her eyes, the wisps of white disappeared, leaving Dawn to look at the rest of the group

confused.

"Have you ever seen what you look like when you're doing...that?" Mal asked.

"No, but Lonnie says that it's nothing." Dawn shrugged before turning back to Ben. "Besides a terrified Chad, it's clear." She stated. "And can I scare him?"

"No!" Ben and Mal exclaimed at the same time, making Dawn scrunch up her face and walk back to the back of the group, mocking the couple the entire way. "Dawn!" Ben called, knowing that once this was over, his friend was going to take it out on him via paperwork. However, the teenage girl simply flipped him off, turning around and smirking once she reached her spot.

"I think the reason you fit in so well at the Isle is because you're not necessarily a hero." Uma murmured.

"Anti-hero." Carlos informed. "It's someone who has good intentions, and makes generally good decisions, but isn't against getting their hands dirty."

"Well, I guess that's her." Uma hummed.

Once they entered the house, Dawn went straight to the closet and opened it, revealing Chad. "I want my mom." He stated.

"Well you see Sweetheart, your ex-girlfriend turned evil and turned half the people in Auradon to stone, and put the others to sleep. So it's quite possible that your mom is either in an eternal sleep like Aurora or she's a statue." Dawn smiled sarcastically. Apparently, it did the trick of knocking Chad from his fright, although he latched onto the girl.

"Your real!" Chad exclaimed.

"Yeah, now get off." Dawn ordered, pushing the boy to Ben. "You deal with the man-child, I'm going to go grab something to eat. The teenage girl followed the group as they exited the cottage. She smiled as Uma and Mal bonded, distracted by Harry throwing an arm around her shoulders. Rolling her eyes, she perked up as Ben

asked about how they had teamed up.

"Actually, Mal promised to let all the kids off the Isle after this is all over." Evie smiled.

"I knew I could trust you guys to make the right decision." Dawn stated confidently. "A little upset that you decided without me, but I'm glad you picked the right decision."

"I have to tell you guys something." Mal sighed, making the group stop. "Um...I lied to you. The kids won't be coming off the Isle...because we're closing the barrier forever."

"What?!" Dawn exclaimed, stalking out from underneath Harry's arm. "And you two made this serious of a decision without my input?"

"Dawn, you had fainted because of the energy you used to weaken Hades!" Mal defended her actions, making the Native American glare. "If anything, you finalized it!"

"No, this is just what you wanted." Dawn growled. "I can't believe I actually thought that either one of you could be trusted. The kids over there needed hope, and you gave it to them, but now? There's none." Turning to Ben, the teenager shook her head in disbelief. "I can't believe you're giving up your dream just because there were some complications along the way."

"It needed to go smoothly." Ben stated, trying to pacify his best friend.

"Needed to go smoothly? Ben, we're dealing with kids whose parents are villains! We knew going into this that it wouldn't be easy." Dawn reasoned.

"Since you can't seem to see reason, then you don't need to be the Royal Advisor!" Ben yelled, making Dawn recoil in shock. Realizing what he said, Ben opened his mouth to apologize.

"And if your going to roll over and show your belly every time someone snarls, then maybe your not fit to be king." Dawn glared, turning around and marching away from the group, ignoring their

calls to wait. It didn't go unnoticed that she only paused when she heard Harry's 'Dawn!', the teenager turning and finding the blue-eyed pirate. Nodding once, Uma and Harry left the group and went chasing after the female.

"Where are we going?" Uma asked.

"I'm tired of waiting around for them to finalize their decisions, only to make the wrong ones." Dawn growled, the silver pendant on her necklace darkening. You see, Dawn didn't understand that the jewel not only could see if someone was good or bad, but it also could tell the same about its owner. And as of the moment, the Native American was battling between evil and good. Closing her eyes, she let out a breath, making the jewel turn back to silver. "There's a remote that controls the barrier. You're going to take it, and you're going to let the kids out."

"Dawn, no." Harry stated, grabbing the girl's face and forcing her to look him in the eye. "I--we, can't have you risking everything just to save a bunch of no-good scumbags."

"Harry-"

"He's right." Uma interjected, laying a hand on Dawn's shoulder. "As much as I appreciate your willingness to save us, that wouldn't be right. And it's okay, not the first time we've been betrayed."

"Yeah." Dawn sighed, watching the pair as they started to leave. Making a once-in-a-life decision, she ran after them. "Harry!" The pirate turned to only catch the female as she smashed her lips against his. Shocked, it took Harry a second or two before molding his lips to hers. "I had to do that at least once." Dawn smiled sadly, turning to go. Harry grabbed her arm and swung her back into his embrace, kissing her again.

"I knew you couldn't resist me, love." Harry smiled, tracing the girl's face. Dawn laid her head on Harry's chest, breathing in the smell of the sea that the pirate carried. Stepping out of his embrace, the Native American smiled sadly before walking away. Harry sighed before resuming walking, rolling his eyes at Uma's smirk. Unbeknownst to the pair as the female teased the male, Dawn

watched, cursing herself for falling in love with someone she'd never be able to see again.

Continuing on her way, Dawn thought of the song that she had come up with as a child. Although no one knew, Dawn could actually sing extremely well and also play the guitar. But after she had come up with songs that challenged the way people thought in Auradon, John and Pocahontas had forbidden her from playing or singing again. But since her reputation was probably already wrecked, Dawn decided 'screw it' and ran to the stables. Saddling Drifter, she directed him to her treehouse. Climbing the rope ladder, Dawn opened the door. Strumming the guitar that she had hidden up there while sitting on the deck, her fingers flowed naturally. Clearing her throat, Dawn counted herself down before starting.

Sighing, Dawn leaned her head against the doorway as she mindlessly played with the strings. Narrowing her eyes, the teenager stood and entered the treehouse. Packing a bag, the Native American scribbled a quick note before sliding down the rope that was connected to her deck. Taking one final look at the treehouse, Dawn stroked Drifter's soft nose. "I'm sorry buddy, but this is for the best." She sighed, untying the black horse.

*****(Later)*****

"She has enough supplies to last months up here, so she'll probably be somewhere around here." Ben explained, turning to Ben and Uma. After Mal had opened the barrier, deeming the Isle as part of Auradon, they had now decided to go in search of Dawn.

"Uh...Ben?" Jay called, sliding down the rope. "Sorry to burst your bubble, but...I don't think we're going to find her." He said, handing Ben the note.

Dear Ben, (or whoever sees this)

I'm not mad, in fact, I'm thankful. I've always wanted to see the world, and now I can. If you need any help, spread the word through the taverns and to drifters, I'll hear it eventually.

-Dawn

P.S.: Good luck with the paperwork, I know how much of a pain in the ass it is.

"Damn it!" Ben exclaimed, throwing the note down and running his fingers through his hair.

Don't worry! This isn't the end of Dare-Devil, I just needed a little drama to happen, because I know that Dawn isn't the type of person to forgive Ben and Mal for thinking of closing the barrier permanently that easily. I also apologize for making all your wonderful readers wait for two months just for an update like this.

Chapter 13

Unknown POV:

Your kidding, right? No, seriously, who brings Ninjas into a tavern and expects to go unnoticed? Rolling my eyes, I took another bite of my food and continued listening to the men in front of me talk. They were sailors on the ship that I had taken here, and we had formed a sort of friendship on the journey here. Of course, the fact that I had taken charge after the Captain and First Mate had been shot, and basically saved the ship and everyone aboard's lives probably helped. "Walker, you listening?" The First Mate, Clevis, asked.

"Yeah, I am." I nodded, finishing my plate and leaning back in the chair.

"Well, you up for a game of poker?" Clevis asked.

"Why not?" I asked, taking some of my spare change and setting it on the table. "Let the game began gentleman." After a couple of rounds, I broke about even, a little more gained than what I had lost. "Well, it's time for me to turn in. I'll see you boys later." The good nights and parting words followed me as I exited the tavern. Walking down to the inn in town, I noticed shadows following, signifying that the Ninjas were following me.

Great. Just great. This is exactly what I want, have to kill about five people before I go to bed. Rolling my eyes, I ducked into the inn. It wasn't as extravagant as some towns I'd been in, since this was just a layover for some cargo ships. Ringing the bell, I waited at the front desk before scanning the keys. Signing myself in, I reached over the desk to grab a key, only to be grabbed and dragged underneath. Trying to fight, I managed to land several blows on my assailant before I felt a prick in the back of my neck.

"Oh shit." I growled, recognizing the effects of a sedative.

"Black Dragon, our master wishes to speak with you." One Ninja, the leader, stated.

"Fuck him." I mumbled, meeting the darkness that soon took over my vision.

Third Person POV:

Meanwhile in Auradon, King Ben was frantic. He had appointed another Royal Advisor, but as good of a job as James (second son of Aladdin and Jasmine) and Melody (Ariel and Eric's youngest daughter) could do, they still weren't Dawn. When James couldn't even handle half of the workload that Dawn handled with ease, Ben hired Melody to help. But even then, Mal started helped Ben with the rest, making the group realize just how much Dawn worked, and never complained once. Okay, maybe she complained about paperwork or threatened it, but she loved the work for the rest of the time.

It had been two years since they found the note in Dawn's treehouse, two years of almost pure chaos. It became clear that Dawn had been the voice of Auradon, and could handle a workload far greater than anyone else. Because of this, the Core Four and Pirate Trio (Uma, Harry, and Gil) started pitching in to help. Since Gil and Jay both graduated, they became diplomats, being able to see the world while still serving Auradon. Harry and Uma started helping John with the Navy, often commanding Gil and Jay's ship that they traveled on.

Carlos and Jane moved to Auradon City, Carlos studying to become a vet while Jane helped plan events for Ben. Evie and Doug lived in Evie's upgrade castle, both running a fashion business. Evie studied interior design, which led to her helping Mal and Ben redesign the castle. It was tradition that there be noticeable changes, and after all, Mal needed a room for their baby. That's right, Mal was pregnant. Because of the baby, Ben and Mal were now planning their wedding, deciding that it would be better to be married when the baby was born. Ben wished that his best friend would be there for the wedding, but Dawn had yet to pop up on any radar.

And on top of that, a new vigilante had appeared, someone who

seemed to travel randomly, always protecting someone. The most interesting part was that every victim that this person had killed had been an enemy of Auradon. It helped with some areas, but it also was damaging for relationships with other countries. Everyone was wondering that if they offended Auradon, would they be next?

So yes, the Black Dragon was both a help and a nuisance, meaning that Ben's priority was to capture this vigilante to question their work. However, this person didn't have a pattern in their travels, didn't seem to associate with the same people twice. In other words, they knew what they were doing. "Camelot Heights and Summerlands have requested for us to travel there and discuss peace." Jay informed as he, Gil, and Uma entered the room.

"I assume that you will be leaving shortly?" Ben asked, looking up from the map where the Black Dragon's sightings (or supposed sightings, he wasn't for sure) were marked.

"As soon as the ship is ready." Uma answered. "Any luck?"

"No, they keep on getting more random." Ben sighed, stretching. "Dawn could've figured this out in minutes." He mumbled.

"Dawn would also keep the countries peaceful and unconcerned while handling the workload of at least five people *and* handle us at the same time." Gil stated. "Are we sure she's completely human?"

"That's debatable." Ben chuckled, thankful for Gil's humor.

"Anyway, we better get going." Uma informed. "Harry's going to have a fit if we aren't there on time."

"At least he doesn't complain about paperwork." Jay joked, the trio leaving the room.

Black Dragon POV:

Waking up, I opened my eyes and looked around. Quickly recognizing the swaying of a ship, I concentrated for a second before determining that we weren't moving. Recognizing the green glow of Maleficent's scepter, I smirked before focusing on the man holding the object. "Black Dragon, how kind of you to join us."

Azazel smirked creepily.

"Hello, scapegoat." I utilized the meaning of Azazel, knowing that it would upset him.

"You're going to regret that once I'm done with you." Azazel snarled.

"And you've said that how many times?" I deadpanned. "Seriously, if I had got a penny for every time I've escaped from you, I'd be the richest person in the world." Usually that would get a reaction out of him, but apparently he had more information, given that he just smiled.

"But I have a one-up on you." Azazel smirked. "I just came from sending a group of men to assassinate the diplomat party from Auradon. They just docked in the ports, and my men will act as guides. After all, you can't get to Camelot in cars, just horseback."

"You never learn, do you?" I chuckled, narrowing my eyes. Azazel was a bit of a nuisance, but he was the one that helped me figure out where I needed to go next.

"What?" Azazel mumbled as I closed my eyes and concentrated hard. Opening them, I knew that I had connected to Maleficent's scepter by the green haze around my sight. Using the powerful object, I drained Azazel of his energy, causing me to be strengthened and he to go unconscious. Cutting through my bonds, I swiped the scepter and dropped it into the ocean, grabbing my bag of weapons and jumping into the water. Easily swimming to the surface, I located the nearest livery. Paying for a powerful stallion, I swung aboard and headed in the direction of Camelot. Catching sight of the traveling party from Auradon, I started following them close enough to keep sight of them, but far enough that they didn't notice me.

I am the Black Dragon, and I'm on a mission to protect Auradon at all costs.

Chapter 14

Third Person POV:

As the Black Dragon followed close behind the diplomat party, the vigilante observed the people from Auradon. Harry Hook, Uma Ursula, Jay Jafer, and Gil Gaston. Each had a separate reason that they held the interest of the Black Dragon, but none were dangerous. Urging the horse on, the Black Dragon continued following the party until nightfall. Tying the gelding away from the others, the vigilante slowly advanced to the outskirts of the campsite. Spotting one of the 'guides' gesturing to the others, the Black Dragon recognized the man from one of the 'visits' to Azazel.

Drawing their swords, the group of men turned towards the diplomat party, charging towards them with yells. Before they could draw their own weapons, a flash of black was fighting the men. Once the person was locked into a fight with three men, they were identified as the Black Dragon, although the black cloak/hood kept their face covered. Drawing their own swords, the diplomat party rushed into battle, helping the vigilante fight back the offenders.

"Harry!" Uma yelled in warning, having caught sight of one of the men coming up from behind. However, the man instantly was drained of life and fell to the ground. Glancing towards the Black Dragon, Harry was able to see shining blue eyes before the vigilante clenched their fist, making the 'guides' fall to the ground, dead. Grabbing the only survivor, the Black Dragon whispered a couple of words to him before letting him go. Watching as the man took off running back to the port-town, Gil was the first that noticed that the Black Dragon's hood had fallen during the fighting.

"You're a girl?!" Gil exclaimed, making the other three turn to watch the female.

"Congratulations, you can tell the difference between genders." The Black Dragon rolled her eyes, narrowing her eyes at her sword. The

blood instantly disappeared, the blade clean. Sheathing it, her multiple daggers came flying into her hands, the female putting them in their places on her armor.

"You're using magic." Harry mumbled, having never seen so many different types of magic as the Black Dragon was using. "That's why you managed to stay off-grid so well."

"Not really, magic draws attention. Azazel actually did help me a couple of times." The Black Dragon shrugged, the bodies turning into dust with a snap of her fingers. "Now, you'll have to excuse me. I have things to take care of." Before they could protest, she disappeared in a cloud of smoke, leaving a map to Camelot for them.

"What the hell?" Jay exclaimed, confused at what they had just witnessed.

*****(Later, Camelot)*****

"You've been awful quiet." Uma observed, sitting down beside her best friend.

"I can't help but think that I've seen her somewhere before." Harry informed, referring to Black Dragon. "I don't where from, but I recognize her from somewhere."

"I recognize her too." Uma admitted. "Maybe she came from the Isle, it would explain her stranger status. Auradon didn't keep track of everyone that was on the Isle."

"Maybe." Harry shrugged, taking notice of the dress that Uma was wearing. In honor of their safe arrival, Camelot had decided to have a masked ball before they started talking about the peace negotiations. "Have I really been sitting here that long?"

"Yeah, I was told to come get you." Uma chuckled, nodding to the red, black, and white suit hanging in the closet. "Get dressed and get down there, I have a feeling somethings going to happen. Something bad."

"Well then, I'll come armed." Harry smirked, shooing his best friend

away so he could get dressed. Trotting down the stairs, he observed the room before stepping into the crowd. The ladies were dressed in fancy dresses and matching masks, the men wearing suits and mostly black masks. Taking a pick of the ladies, Harry approached a blonde, laying a hand on her shoulder to get her attention. "Excuse me, but may I have this dance?"

"You may." The blonde smiled, her blue eyes dancing with amusement.

"Harry Hook from Auradon." Harry introduced, leading her out onto the dance floor.

"Zora Akosha from Camelot." Zora greeted, placing one hand on Harry's shoulder while her other hand was grasped by his larger one. "Auradon...that's quite the trip. Was it interesting?"

"One part, yes, it was." Harry nodded, remembering their meeting with the Black Dragon. "But-" He was interrupted by the doors loudly opening, echoing through the now-quiet hallway.

"I apologize for the interruption, but my father's wishes need to be met." A red-haired young man stated, armed guards flooding the large room. Zora pulled her hand free from Harry's grasp, walking slowly towards the railing of the second floor. As everyone was separated male and female on either side of the banquet hall, she listened very carefully for the footsteps of a guard coming towards her. Just as the female guard started to grab her arm, the blonde leaped over the rail, landing with her left knee to the ground and right hand steadying herself.

"How nice of you to join the party Aaron." 'Zora' smirked, her dress changing to a fiercer-looking outfit. She was wearing a black leather halter top and black shorts, a black cape resting on her shoulders. Her shoes were black moccasins, a sword resting in its place on her belt, a golden dragon carved into the handle. Standing, her hair was braided out of her way while war paint coated her face. It was the accessory around her neck, however, that drew the Auradonians attention. It was a simple silver emblem, held together by a blue ribbon; Dawn's necklace.

"Who are you?" Aaron growled, having been kept away from his father's failed attempts of capturing the Black Dragon.

"The Black Dragon." 'Zora' introduced, her wrist's becoming covered with black leather gauntlets. "Also known as Wapun Smith of Auradon." It was almost as though the entire crowd gasped as one, low mumblings starting at her revelation. Harry made eye contact with Uma, both finally realizing why they recognized the vigilante. Gil was shocked into silence while Jay nearly chuckled. Of course Dawn would be hiding in plain sight, yet no one would be able to find her until she decided to reveal herself.

"Dawn." Aaron smirked, the two having known each other as children. They met briefly during a dual between Azazel and John, exchanging harsh words, which left Dawn triumphant and Aaron hanging his head in shame. "Shall we finish the dual that our mothers interrupted?"

"Maybe another day." Dawn chuckled, sending a blast of magic towards Aaron, the young man smirking before he teleported behind her.

"Not an option." He whispered, making Dawn narrow her eyes and slam her foot to the ground, Aaron and his men disappearing along with her.

"Very well then, have it your way." Dawn shrugged, drawing her sword as Aaron took account of their surroundings. It was in an old Colosseum, the arena long ago abandoned. He couldn't figure out if it was an illusion or an actual place, he wasn't strong enough with magic yet. Dawn, on the other hand, had been practicing with her necklace for the two years she was gone, exploring the full extent of the power. "May the best gladiator win." She smirked, the gates slowly opening.

Hearing growling and roars of animals, Aaron's eyes widened as he detected different powerful and deadly animals. Turning to see where Dawn had gone, he spotted her standing in front of three different gates, each holding an animal that wanted to kill her. She was truly sticking to the Colosseum rules, each person having to kill animals first before the survivors fought to their death against each

other. Inhaling deeply, he faced his own three gates, hoping that Dawn would be severely injured by the animals. Aaron knew that if their mothers hadn't intervened, John would've killed Azazel, and John had taught Dawn everything he knew in the trick of the trade, making Dawn a powerful opponent. And her knowledge of magic made her deadly, so Aaron had little hope of surviving a dual between the two.

Meanwhile back in Camelot, chaos had ascended. Everyone was talking about Dawn and how powerful she had become, as well as wondering if she was still good or if she had turned bad. Harry, Gil, Jay, and Uma weren't any help, all four just as confused. They were now gathered in Jay's bedroom, talking to Ben, Mal, Evie, Doug, Carlos, and Jane. "She just stomped her foot and then they all disappeared." Uma finished telling the story.

"Dawn's alive." Ben mumbled, rubbing his forehead. "And you're sure that she's the Black Dragon?"

"Well she announced it herself, so yeah, we're sure." Harry deadpanned.

"This changes everything." Mal stated, placing a hand on Ben's shoulder. "The Black Dragon is no longer considered an enemy-"

"I wouldn't jump to that conclusion quite yet." Carlos spoke up. "What color was the pendent?"

"Like a silver-greyish tone, why?" Jay asked.

"Dawn once explained to me how she was able to locate people." Jane explained. "A trail would appear, one that only she could see. If it was black, the person was evil. If it was white, the person was good. If it was grey, the person was making a decision to either turn evil or good. But silver, that meant that the person was both evil and good."

"How is that even possible?" Gil asked.

"If you have good intentions but don't exactly follow the rules to get the goal, you can be considered both." Doug answered. "It basically

means that you have a good goal, but you're not afraid to get your hands dirty to reach that goal."

"So Dawn might actually be becoming evil." Jay stated.

"That's impossible." Harry shook his head in denial. "Dawn would never do something like that." Uma laid a hand on Harry's arm, being the only one who knew about the kiss that Harry and Dawn had shared. With all of the confusion, they had decided it best to keep it a secret until Dawn came back.

"We thought that Auradonian's couldn't turn evil, but then Audrey happened. It's very well possible that the same thing is happening with Dawn." Evie sadly informed, both Harry and Ben not wanting to believe the possibility.

"Well let's not jump to a conclusion on either sides." Carlos pacified. "Just thread carefully, we all know how unpredictable Dawn can be."

*****(Colosseum)*****

Aaron finished killing the last carnivore, turning to see Dawn laying against the dead body of a male lion, watching him with an amused expression. "Nice job Aaron, but I'm needed elsewhere. Have fun explaining this to your dad." With Dawn's words, the Colosseum faded away to reveal the base that Azazel operated from. The animals were the multiple pets that man had collected over the years, all slaughtered in the courtyard. After turning around once in a circle to observe the damage, Aaron turned to yell at Dawn, only for the female to be absent.

"The next time I see you, I'm going to kill you!" Aaron yelled, hoping that Dawn would hear him. "Do you hear me? I'll kill you!"

Chapter 15

[image]

Dawn POV:

Entering a room at the local hotel, I changed my clothes with a simple snap of my fingers, too tired to actually go through the motions. Turning on the TV, I watched the news broadcast talk about how after two years of being missing, I had suddenly turned up as the Black Dragon. Lowering the volume to where it was just background noise, I spread out the map of the United Kingdoms. Routing the best way to the Uncharted Forest where my mother's people lived. If I timed it right, I'd be able to meet Mom and Dad there on their monthly visit.

Looking up at the sound of heavy footsteps, I rolled the map back up and placed it in my backpack. Blinking once, I could see the trail of the person approaching and therefore being able to identify who it was. Seeing the small dull white glow, I deduced that it wasn't a threat of any sort. Grabbing a leftover sandwich from my lunch earlier, I sat down on the bed and crossed my legs, beginning the preparation for my next move. There was one more thing I needed to do before going home and explain myself to Ben...and Harry.

Seeing him dressed up at the ball was enchanting, and I admit that I struggled to stick to my plan instead of going home with them. It may have been two years, but I still had a crush on the blue-eyed pirate. Shaking myself free of my thoughts, I downed the rest of my water in my water bottle and tossed it into the trash can, smiling as it made it inside. It was a little thing, sure, but I had had to find joy in the small things lately, or I would've been depressed a long time ago.

Grabbing one of the many daggers from my armor, I placed it under my pillow, keeping one hand on it for security. It wasn't necessarily for my protection, since I'd be able to send a magic attack much quicker and doing more damage than with the dagger. But before I had gotten better at magic (read: the first three months of my

travels), the dagger was my best source of protection and unless I had one hand wrapped around the handle, I couldn't go to sleep. Wrapping my free hand around my necklace, I traced the smooth surface of the magical pendant and thought about how it used to be that I couldn't even drain someone's energy without becoming tired.

I had always known the extent of the power that I could have with the help of the pendent, but I never had the time nor the desire to become a powerful magic-wielder. But after accidentally discovering Azazel's plans, I decided that my vacation was over and that my duty to Auradon was starting again. So after six months of training, I was finally able to do the things that I had only read about. The first time that I discovered that I could use someone else's magic was also by accident, sensing Aaron's magic when I was trailing Azazel and being to teleport like he was able to do.

So my life as the Black Dragon began, protecting Auradon without them realizing it. That is, until I started having to go after more important figures, than I caught everyone's attention, including Auradon's. But, I had been able to escape every trap that people had created in effort to capture me, and was able to still do the work that I wanted--needed--to do. My decision to reveal my true identity had been planned for a while, but I hadn't intended for Uma, Harry, Jay, and Gil to be there. However, any doubts that Ben wouldn't find out could be erased, for it was guaranteed that they would report back to him, especially with news about me.

Closing my eyes, I soon fell into a peaceful slumber, the nightmares that had been plaguing my sleep staying away for once. They were mostly of me doing something wrong and it ending with someone I cared about getting killed or punished. Yes, there were a few that involved Harry, and I admit, they were the ones that had me waking up and not wanting to go back to sleep in fear of having to face such things once again. There were others that seemed more like visions than dreams, so they were stored in the back folds of my brain, along with other things that I elected to not keep them tucked away in the deep memories that my brain stored, never seeming to end.

*****(Week Later)*****

Boarding the train, with the backpack strap that held my compacted armor and weapons, noticeably smaller thanks to magic. Sadly, it didn't affect the weight, so if I wanted to, I could easily knock anyone out with a single swing. Settling down in a seat, I grabbed my phone (I had bought one at a store yesterday) and earbuds, plugging them into the headphone port of the phone and stuck them both in a my ears. Pulling up a random playlist on YouTube, I wrapped my arms around my backpack and settled further into my seat, leaning against the headrest to where I could watch the scenery past by. It was about a two hour ride to the Iscî, meaning land, ever so originally named.

Becoming aware of the song that had started, I chuckled at the words. This song was something that had fit my life, something that almost seemed to describe my story to the T. Throughout my life, my innocence had been taken away at a young age, the violence that many Auradonians had managed to escape was present. My father had many enemies from his travels around the world, my Mother hated by the English government, while our standing was now secure, it hadn't always. Only after helping beat the villains back to the Isle, Dad was given the rank of Captain in the Navy, which led us to being raised in the world.

My battle for the Isle was more than just the fact that they were already survivors, it was also because I had some part of living roughly, and I wanted to keep others from having to go through the life I did. Mom didn't agree with me, saying that it the was rough living that had turned me into who I was. And maybe it was, maybe I was a diamond found in the roughly cut, but the sharp edges hadn't been sanded off, for I wasn't like the other girls in Auradon. Yes, I was even different from Grace (merida's daughter) and Lonnie, for they had been raised to be strong in who they were, but I had had to discover who I was.

It wasn't easy, the fight to stay yourself--and therefore different--in Auradon, which is why Dad had let me come with him on his journeys. He didn't understand my wish to be different, but he did understand my urge to explore...after all, I had gotten it from him. Mom, however...she knew what it was like to be scorned for being yourself, since she had lived most of her life among white men

while still maintaining her Native American ways. So while we disagreed on the way I saw the way I'd been raised when I was very young, we both shared the wish for people to be accepted, no matter what color their skin was or what their views of the world was or their childhoods.

It was on that argument I was able to convince them to allow me to go to accept Ben's offer to become his Royal Advisor. I don't think he understood how much the Council Members were against our new-age ideas since I was the one that argued with them, sometimes hours at a time. He had been sheltered, to say the least, most of his life, so I didn't want to add to his burden of learning about the real world by telling him about the whispered insults I overheard at balls, instead stuffing it down and continuing to smile politely. Dad and I built the treehouse for an escape, and the freedom that I felt while riding Drifter as he galloped through the woods was not taken for granted.

The worst part about everything I had been through in my life, was my incredible memory. Since I literally couldn't forget *anything,* the insults and snide remarks, the sharp undertones and double meanings, the hidden glares and rough handshakes, they were burned into my mind, *forever*. And whenever I thought that I was finally able to shove them all away, pushed so far deep into my mind that I'd never after to experience them again, something would happen that would bring them all back with a rush. Yes, there was happy memories that I loved, but they sometimes seemed to be overwhelmed by the darker memories.

The council wasn't as nice as they appeared, for despite all their riches and power and 'kindness', they were truly demons made of gold. They didn't understand why a *female* had been placed in such a powerful position, trying to get me to sit down and let them do everything. Long story short, it didn't work out for them, at all. But for the United Kingdoms of Auradon? My new position helped them. For the people I made friends with were powerful, each in their own community. People who had planned to overthrow the country instead allied with it, not because they respected it, but because they respected *me*.

Was it prideful to say that? Maybe. But was it true?

Yes.

Chapter 16

Dawn POV:

Stepping out of the train, I shouldered the backpack and looked around. Glancing around the small town (really a village), I caught sight of the place that Mom and Dad usually ate at. Walking past the large window, I ducked my head down to hide a smile. They were there, at the same table that we always sat at. Entering the building, I waved over the waitress who was serving them. "That couple at the front table, I'll pay their bill." I murmured lowly.

"Of course ma'am." The teenage girl smiled. She wasn't that much younger than me, but her brown eyes were more warm and welcoming than my blue eyes had hardened over the past two years. "Is there anything you want me to give them?"

"Yeah, this." I handed her a piece of paper that held my other arrow pendant, the match for the charm that I had given Harry. Apparently he still wore it, for I had caught sight of the chain under the suit last week. When the two arrows were fitted together, it was the sign for family, the symbol that most Algonquian women wore when they got married. Clearing my busy mind to allow space to watch my parents without seeming stalkerish, I moved out of the way for some customers and looked back up to see the waitress pointing in my direction. Throwing my hand for a lazy wave, I nodded to them both before exiting the building. Now, I waited, the next move theirs.

It wasn't long before I heard leaves crunching behind me by the bank. Dad was a hunter and explorer, but even he had no comparison to Mom and how she moved like a ghost through the woods. "Dad." I greeted without looking back, glancing towards him as he sat down on the rocky bank of the river.

"It's been a while." Dad hummed, his blue eyes showing signs of wariness, yet they failed to completely hide his joy of seeing his only daughter again. "Your Mom wanted to come."

"But you, being you, insisted on scouting me out." I finished his unspoken thought. "I'm not a danger to you two."

"Yes, just like you're not a danger to Auradon." Dad rolled his eyes.

"My life as the Black Dragon isn't what's damaging Auradon's relations with other kingdoms and you know it." I retorted sharply. "Our family of everyone should know how bad the elders of Auradon treat others. And with me gone means that their rudeness is no longer contained."

"It's been two years Dawn, what are you doing here?" Dad sighed while I studied his face. There were wrinkles there that hadn't been the last time I'd seen him, which was about a month before I had 'disappeared'. His blond hair was now sprinkled with grey and white, and his blue eyes were quite as lively as they were once. Dad and Mom had both had me later on in their years, which meant that he was fixing to hit 50, Mom about 48.

"I didn't know it was suddenly against the law for a daughter to want to see her parents." I glared, the biting coldness of Winter's wind helping turn my cheeks red.

"Wapun, what your father is meaning to say, is that there's a warrant out for your arrest." Mom's soothing voice called, both Dad and I turning to see that she had followed him out and had decided to reveal her presence. "Many people in Auradon are calling for your imprisonment, especially with Mal being pregnant. They say that your danger to Auradon and the Royal Family."

"All I've done is protect Auradon." I stated. "And unlike them, I'd never hurt a child."

"We know that sweetie, but people have never seen you use such powerful magic." Mom smiled comfortingly.

"That's because there was no need for me to learn it before." I shrugged.

"Are you saying there's a threat?" Dad asked, his protective side coming out.

"Yes." I nodded. "What it is, I can't say. But I'm hoping to stop it from interrupting life here, otherwise I'd come back home sooner." There was a loud crash heard in the woods, followed by yells. "Are you guys being watched?"

"It appears so." Dad said with a heavy sigh, holding out the arrow charm. "I'll try to buy you some time."

"Dad wait, you'll both be put in jail!" I called, making him smile.

"Dawn, you were born to do mighty things in your life. If there is something I can do to help you, even if it's to stay in jail, I'll do it." Dad chuckled, standing with the spryness of a man half his age, reminding me that despite his age, he was still a powerful opponent.

"You are a strong wind that cannot be stopped." Mom spoke in a riddle, slipping the necklace over my head and around my neck. "Run with the wind, my little one, and may the Great Spirit be with you."

"I love you, Mom." I smiled, embracing her.

"I love you too." She pulled away. "Now go, and fulfill your destiny." Nodding, I stepped into the freezing water, running with the current to allow the raised mud to cover my tracks. Putting them both out of my mind, I used to magic to keep my body warm and dry to avoid frostbite or worse. After a mile of running downstream, I came across a tree branch over the river. Swinging into the branches, I climbed into it to avoid tracks appearing on the bank and started my downward descent.

Landing with my knees crouched, I opened my backpack and smiled. It would take a lot of my energy to do it without the strength of another magic welder to use their magic, but I'd be able to teleport to the Royal Palace. Putting on my armor, I threw the clothes and backpack into the river, knowing that it'd lead the guards on a wild-goose chase after me. Fitting a small knife into my hair, right beside my neck, I breathed in deep and released the air to clear my mind. Picturing the basement where no one went in the palace, I felt the wind pick up around me and could slowly feel the

breezy coldness turn to the warmness the inside.

Opening my eyes, I nearly laughed in joy of my success, identifying the area from one of the times that I had escaped from a ball and hid out until it ended. Moving a curtain, I entered the dusty yet comfy area. I knew that no one had come down here due to the heavy coat of dust that covered every surface, but the old couch and pile of quilts were where my night was going to be sent. Taking off my weapons and the outer layer of my armor, I was left in a simple tanktop and leggings duo. Using the last of my strength, I made the dust disappear and fell into the comfortable place, face first. Curling into a ball, I soon drifted off to sleep, weapons within easy access.

After all, I needed to get a good night's sleep before I made my entrance into the Council Meeting Room tomorrow to knock some assholes off their high horses.

Chapter 17

Third Person POV:

"We need to take action!" Lord Charming exclaimed, banging his fist on the table. "Dawn Smith is a danger to Auradon and has shown no signs of slowing down."

"How can we find her?" Lord Florian groaned, being the one who took the responsibility of being in charge of John and Pocahontas. "Her parents aren't even speaking, much less giving away their daughter's location."

"Have you tried torture?" Lord Charming suggested.

"Lord Phillip, that really-" Ben started.

"Really what King Ben?" Lord Phillip interrupted. "She's not going to just come walking through those doors, and we need to break Smith and his wife."

"I guess I have always been pretty unpredictable." Dawn hummed, shutting the doors behind her and locking them with magic. There was a barely noticeable silver glow in her hands, disappearing as she waved a hand to knock out the guards. "So, what was that about torturing my parents?"

"You bitch!" Lord Charming yelled, making Dawn's eyes harden as she chuckled.

"You always did hate me." Dawn rolled her eyes, walking around to the head of the table where Ben was watching her. "Congratulations on the kid and the upcoming wedding, although I really expected you two to tie the knot before you got Mal pregnant."

"It wasn't like we planned it that way." Ben gritted out, not sure how to react to how calmly his old best friend was acting. Her once warm blue eyes were now similar to ice, threatening to freeze time

and people.

"That's true." Dawn hummed, cocking her head as she smirked. "Please don't tell me that you really expect to defeat me." She deadpanned at Lord Florian, snapping her fingers to make the sword disappear from the man's hands.

"That's against the rules of an honorable fight!" Lord Florian exclaimed.

"Two things." Dawn held up two fingers. "One, you never challenged me. And two, there's no such thing as an honorable fight; there's a winner and a loser, no matter how the game is played. Now, you never answered my question: what was that about torturing my parents?"

"Well thankfully we don't have to condone that." Lord Phillip spoke up, his brown eyes calm despite the dangerous force present. "And it was only a suggestion Dawn, we wouldn't've acted on it."

"You know, I highly doubt that." Dawn narrowed her eyes at the man. The similarities between him and Audrey were extremely noticeable, more so than Aurora and their daughter. "Where are they being held?"

"Now, you can't just-" Lord Eric started.

"Do *not* finish that sentence." Dawn ordered, making him shut up immediately. "Where. Are. They. Being. Held."

"In the Fairys Cottage." Ben answered. "But since we have you, they'll be released."

"Since you have me?" Dawn asked, laughing. "Ben, I think you've mistaken who's in charge here."

"No, you have." Ben smirked, the doors being opened by a blue blast of fire. Hades entered the room in his true dramatic way, followed by the Pirate Trio and the Core Four. They started getting the Lord's out of the room in preparation for taking Dawn down, for they knew that'd it be a hard fight. But instead of being upset or worried or even preparing for the fight herself, Dawn continued chuckling.

"You didn't seriously think that I didn't feel you coming here, right?" Dawn chuckled, her eyes glowing slightly as she borrowed Hades power to use for her next teleportation. "Thanks for the information, Ben, you've been most helpful." Going to do a mock bow, Mal cried out for them to grab her, only for Dawn to disappear...with Harry, who'd gone tackle her and therefore was teleported with her since he was touching her.

"That...is funky." Harry summarized after he wretched up the contents of his stomach.

"You were not part of the plan whatsoever." Dawn growled in annoyance, having not left the pirate against what her gut was telling her to do...which was to follow through on her old threat of gutting him like a fish.

"Well you didn't exactly follow our plan either." Harry retorted, his blue eyes still holding the manic glint that he'd always had, making the female wrestle back her smile at the comforting look. At least one thing hadn't changed in her time gone.

"True." Dawn sighed, starting off to the Fairys Cottage.

"Why'd you show up to the Council Meeting Room? That's risky." Harry asked. "No, why'd you even come back? Why now?"

"Are you saying that I'm not a risk-taker?" Dawn asked with a raised eyebrow, stepping over a fallen log as she ignored the last two questions.

"That's not what I'm asking, but yeah, I guess that's right." Harry shrugged. Rolling her eyes again, Dawn didn't make a move to talk anymore, and he didn't make an effort to continue the conversation. "What are you-" He started to ask as she tensed, her eyes moving around in slight paranoia. He was interrupted by Dawn slamming them both to the ground, a fireball flying past where they were once.

"Okay, here's the plan." Dawn stated as she jerked him to his feet and started dragging him behind her as she started running through the woods. "We're going to free my parents from the guards, they'll

both be able to survive in the woods and make their way back to Iscî where the people there will hide them. Then you can either come with me and help me stop this madness or-"

"I'm not leaving you." Harry stubbornly informed, making her flash a smile before pushing him out of the way of an arrow. "You distract them, I'll get your parents out." Seeing her hesitance, he smiled. "You can trust me, Dawn."

"Okay." She nodded, her hands becoming encased with a silver glow while Harry continued the rest of the way to Fairys Cottage. Turning to face the men that were probably hired by Azazel, Dawn smirked as she headed towards the shouted orders from the leader of the bunch. They'd regret taking the job, even if it was the thing that they'd ever do.

*****(Later)*****

"They're not going to stop trying to come after you, especially now." Harry informed as he and Dawn continued the trek to a safe place, whatever that meant. The female had changed both of their appearances with magic, which made the pirate upset that he had to give up the damned hook.

"I know." She hummed. "But Azazel isn't going to stop."

"Azazel?" Harry asked.

"They don't know about him?" Dawn questioned, her eyebrows furrowed in confusion.

"I've heard some runners tell Lord Charming and Lord Florian about him, but they waved it off and didn't tell Ben." Harry shrugged. "Why?"

"Because he's the cause of the raids in the South and massacre in the North." Dawn explained, sighing. She had thought that Ben had been informed of Azazel, and was disappointed that he hadn't sent troops to take down the man. It made more sense now, since those damned those two Lord's had neglected to inform Ben. Out of everyone, Lord Charming and Lord Florian were the most

troublesome on the Council.

"How'd you know about that?" Harry asked. "Only the higher-ups do."

"Harry, I have connections all over the world, in every kingdom and port and land. There isn't anything I *don't* know." Dawn chuckled, knowing that she was being a bit boastful. "I respect people and don't make them feel like they're below me, that earns me a lot of people who are loyal to me."

"That's why Auradon's allies are falling away." Harry realized, fiddling with the zipper of the black jacket Dawn had given him.

"Bingo." She flashed a smile, her eyes bright as she ducked underneath a low-hanging branch.

"So what's the plan?" Harry asked, becoming aware of the fact that they had both gone back to their original appearance.

"Now, we wait." Dawn informed. "My Dad and Mom are going to be sending the word out to my friends. By the end of the week, the quarrels everyone has with Auradon are going to disappear, and maybe then Ben will listen to me."

"He'll listen to you now." Harry informed.

"No, he wouldn't've." Dawn sighed. "Not until I was behind bars and without this necklace. And I'm not the only one who has spies in the palace. Azazel would've taken advantage of my weakness and killed me."

"We would've protected you." Harry argued.

"Harry, you don't understand." Dawn spun on her heel to face him, tilting her head up so her blue eyes could meet his own. "For the past year and a half, I've been the only thing standing between Azazel and Auradon. Without me coming in and causing confusion, he would've taken over Auradon and enslaved everyone."

"Then why come back?" Harry asked once again.

"Because he and Aaron were getting too strong for me." Dawn mumbled before she started to explain. "When it's just one of them, I can defeat the one easily. But now they've decided to combine efforts, and while I've been getting stronger, so have they. I thought that I'd be able to count on my friends, but obviously not."

"You've been gone two years without any word. Excuse us if we're not exactly jumping to trust you again." Harry snapped.

"If I sent any letters, you would've known that I was either with or was the Black Dragon by the pattern." Dawn sighed. "Then either Azazel or Aaron or the Council would've taken my parents. I wouldn't be able to help them, not back then."

"Dawn, you had us so worried." Harry murmured. "We didn't even know if you were alive anymore."

"And would that even be a bad thing?" Dawn laughed, not watching Harry anymore. "All I was a secretary, easily replaced."

"A secretary?!" Harry exclaimed, making Dawn jump at how loud he was. Ignoring how her eyes had widened and how she was now watching the woods surrounding them for a sight of danger, he knew that they were far enough that his voice wouldn't alert anyone and so he started ranting. "Ben has five people doing the tasks that you did *while* attending school, and they can hardly handle it! And we haven't even had half the size of the events that you dealt with when you were doing 'just secretary' work. In fact, the biggest task is keeping those raids and massacre on the down-low, which isn't hard, since nearly everyone who knows has forgotten. You were not 'just a secretary'!" He took a breath and glanced at his companion to see her biting back a smile. "What?"

"Your cute." Dawn shook her head in amusement. "I was being sarcastic. I know that the paperwork was hard and that dealing with the Council is a pain in the ass. You didn't have to go on a rant about how I'm special."

"I never said that you were special." Harry backpedaled, not wanting to make a move that was going to get him rejected.

"So I'm not?" Dawn retorted, raising her eyebrows in question.

"No, I'm not saying that-" Harry cut himself off and glared at her. "You're doing this on purpose."

"Don't have a clue what you're talking about." Dawn smirked, walking away, probably to grab firewood.

"...Wait, did you call me cute?!"

Chapter 18

Dawn POV:

"Did you seriously think that you'd be able to jump that?" I asked Harry, my arms crossed as I amusedly observed his predicament. He had tried to jump a log *and* a large thorn bush, which was why he was now getting pricked by thorns and his foot was caught on a v-shaped branch on the log. I didn't blame him for wanting a challenge, it'd been about four days since we had made camp. After that, there really wasn't much to do.

"Quit staring get me out of this." Harry demanded, sighing as my eyebrows shot up. "Please?" He said it like it physically pained him, making me chuckle.

"Nah, you've been a bad boy. I'm going to leave you there." I teased, spinning on my heel and heading back to our campsite.

"Dawn!" Harry called. "Please get me out of here! It hurts!" Continuing until I was out of sight, I circled around to where he wouldn't be able to see me and waited. Sure enough, he tried getting out, which he would've been able to get out, except his ankle was caught worse than I thought. Recognizing the sign of a panic attack starting, I came from the other side and laid a hand on his leg.

"Hey, calm down." I ordered softly, getting a dagger from my boot. "I'm going to use this to get your foot free, alright?" Harry weakly nodded, his blue eyes still panicky. Frowning, I cursed myself for acting like I was going to leave him behind. It was amazing, but the fact that Hook had beaten Harry had slipped my mind. Well, momentarily, until I realized that he was actually trapped. "Easy." I mumbled as his leg jerked free and he went tumbling deeper into the thorn bush...well, where the thorn bush was. My relaxes had taken over and I had made the thorn bush disappear and so Harry landed on the dirt.

Using an arm to help me, I jumped over the log and landed beside him, crouching down beside him to check for injuries. "You alright?" I asked, using magic to heal the scratches that the thorns had caused.

"I'm used to worse." Harry shrugged, shying away from my gaze.

"I'm sorry I made you think I was leaving you." I murmured, lifting his head with my finger. "I didn't think about how'd it affect you."

"'s not your fault." Harry shrugged, his Scottish accent more prominent while his tone was quiet. "I'm just fucked-up."

"Harry, you're not fucked-up." I groaned, crossing my legs since I had feeling that we were going to be here for a while. "Rather you choose to believe it or not, you are not fucked-up. You're not a hopeless wreck or a burden."

"Is that why my Dad beat me?" Harry bit back. "Because I'm a perfect child? No, it's because my entire existence is a mistake."

"Harry Hook, you are not a mistake." I stated harshly, grabbing his shirt. "You may be a villains kid, or the son of an arrogant asshole, but you. are. not. a. mistake." Growling in annoyance as he scoffed, I resisted the urge to punch him and instead kissed him. The second kiss we'd ever shared, both adrenaline filled. God, I was stupid. This time I couldn't run away. Pulling away, I gasped for breath and squeezed my eyes shut.

"Going to run away again?" It was like he read my mind, but the hurt in his voice kept me from responding with sarcasm.

"Not this time." I shook my head, meeting his eyes again.

"Good." Harry smiled--actually smiled, like a genuine smile--and pressed his lips to mine again, slipping his tongue into my mouth to explore it. Tangling my hands into his hair, I let him take control, pulling away once I needed air. He, however, didn't need any, his head falling to my neck as he nipped and kissed at the skin, moving my crew-neck T-shirt to suck a mark on my collarbone.

"Am I interrupting something here?" A voice called, making me

push Harry off of me, using magic to reenforce my act.

"Peter!" Another voice scolded from a little ways away while the eternal kid giggled with joy.

"So help me, I'm going to wring your neck one day, Peter Pan." I growled, taking Harry's offered hand to stand. "Whose else here?"

"Oh, no one important if you and lover boy wanna continue." Peter smiled mischievous while I rolled my eyes as my cheeks flamed and Harry stood behind me awkwardly.

"Pan..." I warned, narrowing my eyes at him.

"Just Robin Hood, Maid Marian, Robin Jr, Marius, Tiger Lily and my Lost Boys." Peter listed while we walked back to camp, Tinkerbell sitting on the kid's shoulder. "Jack Sparrow and his crew, Elizabeth and William Turner, Simba, Nala, Kiara, Kovu, Kion, Rani, Tarzan, Jane, and John are about a couple of minutes out."

"Peter, we said not to bother them!" Maid Marian, Robin Hood's wife, scolded.

"Aww shucks, I was only havin fun." Peter huffed.

"Well that was rude." Maid Marian glared.

"This is why I stay on Neverland." Peter mumbled, going to stand beside his boys and loyal Native American friend.

"Thanks for coming. I'll explain what's going on after the others come so I'll only have to say it once." I explained, the group nodding and going off to do what they wanted. No one questioned Harry's presence, knowing that despite who he was, if he was me, he could be trusted.

"Your right, you do have powerful friends." Harry mumbled in my ear, laying his chin on my shoulder while his arm wrapped around my waist. I was going to ask what exactly the nature of our relationship was, especially since if Peter hadn't interrupted us, we would've definitely had sex. Oh wow, that was weird to say.

"Only the rulers of a couple kingdoms." I waved it off, feeling him start to launch into a rant. "Kidding." I rushed to add, chuckling.

"So now what?" Harry asked.

"Now I explain what's been going for the past two years." I breathed out as I spotted the remaining members of group that weren't here coming up the trail. "Here's hoping it goes well."

*****(That Night)*****

Running my hands through my hair, I sat down beside Harry in front of a fire that he had started. For the past two hours, I'd been arguing with the group about things that had been happening. In the end, they had all agreed to help me and to stop the quarrel and eventual war with Auradon. However, they did also state that if I wasn't back in the position of Royal Advisor in three months, they'd continue their plans of freedom from Auradon. Ignoring the squeals of Rani as Kion teased his mate, I laid my hair on Harry's shoulder.

"Knew you could do it." He chuckled, adjusting the way he was sitting so I was more comfortable. "When are we heading back to the palace?"

"After they leave." I answered. "They'll probably be gone before we wake up in the morning." At least after he woke up, for Harry was a late sleeper and not a morning person at all.

"Good." Harry whispered, his voice holding a sultry undertone. Winking, he scooted away from the fire and laid down on one of blankets that I had teleported from a nearby town. Laying the hook down beside him, Harry pulled another blanket on top of him.

"Harry?" I called quietly. Hearing his acknowledging hum, I debated on rather I should continue. "Why do hold your father in such high regard if all he did your entire life was beat you?" For a second I thought that I'd gone too far, but then Harry spoke.

"I guess...I thought that if I acted and looked more like him, he'd be proud of me." Harry sighed. "But obviously that wasn't the case." Not saying anything, I thought that he'd gone to sleep, but

apparently not. "Come 'ere." He asked, opening his arms while pleading with his eyes.

"Why?" I asked.

"Cause I wanna smother you in your sleep." Harry deadpanned. "What do you think? I wanna cuddle."

"Harry Hook likes to cuddle?" I raised a brow in amusement, making him roll his eyes.

"Will you just hurry up and get over here? I'm getting cold." Harry complained.

"Such patience." I teased, standing. "Sorry Harry, but I'm going to go visit with Kion and get to know Rani. I've met her once and Kion's a close friend, I want to know his mate."

"Alright." Harry pouted, wrapping himself up in the blanket and closing his eyes. Holding back a chuckle, I smiled at his relaxed body before making my way to where Kion and Rani had chosen to make their campsite.

Chapter 19

[image]

Dawn POV:

Tending to the fire, I shook Harry awake. Handing the still half-asleep pirate breakfast, I started chewing the sausage that I'd managed to make appear with magic. I'd found (read: stole) some eggs and was able to cook them also for breakfast, which was better than most of the food that'd we had all week. Watching how much Harry was fiddling with his hands after we finished eating breakfast, I raised a questioning brow.

"Am I throwin' you off?" I asked, raising a brow.

"Nope." He shook his head, making me chuckle.

"Didn't think so." I smirked sarcastically, spinning a knife around my hand and placing it in its holder in my boot.

How you doin', young lady?
That feeling that you giving really drives me crazy
You dope, have a player 'bout to choke
I was at a loss for words first time that we spoke

Harry started, standing and twirling his hook around his hand.

You're lookin' for a girl that'll treat you right?
How you're lookin' for her in the daytime with the light?

I raised a brow, crossing my arms and watching him.

You might be the type if I play my cards right
I'll find out by the end of the night

Harry shrugged with a smirk.

You expect me to just let you hit it?
But will you still respect me if you get it?

I asked, standing and making sure that I stayed a couple feet away from him.

All I can do is try, gimme one chance (Chance)
What's the problem? I don't see no ring on your hand (Hand)
I'll be the first to admit it
I'm curious about you, you seem so innocent

Harry chuckled, trying to get closer to me, only for me to jump back a couple steps.

You wanna get in my world, get lost in it?
Boy, I'm tired of runnin', let's walk for a minute

I ordered, stopping the chase that we had started.

Promiscuous girl, wherever you are
I'm all alone, and it's you that I want

Harry called, a couple of feet away from me while we both walked through the forest.

Promiscuous boy, you already know
That I'm all yours, what you waiting for?

I responded, jumping over a log and keeping up a pace to keep him behind me.

Promiscuous girl, you're teasin' me
You know what I want, and I got what you need

Harry teased, his voice following me as we continued the hike through the woods.

Promiscuous boy, let's get to the point
'Cause we're on a roll, you ready?

I threw over my shoulder, climbing a tree and waiting for him to come into my sight before I continued.

Roses are red, some diamonds are blue
Chivalry is dead, but you're still kinda cute

Hey, I can't keep my mind off you
Where you at? Do you mind if I come through?

Harry asked, looking around the area for where I was 'hiding'.

I'm out of this world, come with me to my planet
Get you on my level, do you think that you can handle it?

I retorted, jumping off of the branch and leaning against the tree.

They call me Thomas, last name Crown
Recognize game, I'ma lay mines down

Harry smirked, pinning me to the tree with both of his arms over my head.

I'm a big girl, I can handle myself
But if I get lonely, I'ma need your help
Pay attention to me, I don't talk for my health

I moved his chin so that he was facing me instead of the birds around us that had suddenly caught his attention.

I want you on my team

Harry stated, leaning down to capture my lips.

So does everybody else

I remarked and ducked underneath his arms to avoid the kiss.

Shh, baby, we can keep it on the low (Low)
Let your guard down, ain't nobody gotta know (Know)
If you with it, girl, I know a place we can go

Harry followed me while I ran out of the clearing.

What kind of girl do you take me for?

I threw over my shoulder with a laugh.

Promiscuous girl, wherever you are
I'm all alone, and it's you that I want

Harry called, still following my trail.

Promiscuous boy, you already know
That I'm all yours, what you waiting for?

I smiled slightly, knowing just how true the words were.

Promiscuous girl, you're teasin' me
You know what I want, and I got what you need

Harry's irritated shrug could practically be heard.

Promiscuous boy, let's get to the point
'Cause we're on a roll, you ready?

I smirked from where I was hidden once again.

Don't be mad, don't get mean

Harry sighed.

Don't get mad, don't be mean

I repeated, wrapping my arms around his neck and breathing in the scent of sea and leather.

Hey, don't be mad, don't get mean

Harry chuckled, not turning around to face me.

Don't get mad, don't be mean

I moved to leave again, only for Harry to grab my hand and pull me back.

Wait, I don't mean no harm
I can see you with my T-shirt on

Harry smirked, his tone holding the sultry undertone from last night.

I can see you with nothin' on
Feelin' on me before you bring that on

I shot back with a playful and flirty smile.

Bring that on?!

Harry exclaimed, his eyes wide.

You know what I mean

I rolled my eyes, pushing him off of me.

Girl, I'm a freak, you shouldn't say those things

Harry warned.

I'm only trying to get inside of your brain
To see if you can work me the way you say

I explained, already knowing that a night with him would be amazing.

It's OK, it's alright
I got something that you gon' like

Harry shrugged.

Hey, is that the truth or are you talking trash?
Is your game M.V.P. like Steve Nash?

I questioned, making sure that he knew I was teasing by the playful glint in a my eyes.

Promiscuous girl, wherever you are
I'm all alone, and it's you that I want

Harry called, acting like he was fixing to leave.

Promiscuous boy, I'm callin' your name
But you're drivin' me crazy the way you're makin' me wait

I groaned, keeping his hand hostage.

Promiscuous girl, you're teasin' me
You know what I want, and I got what you need

Harry boyishly grinned, placing one hand on my waist and the other behind my neck.

Promiscuous boy, we're one and the same
So we don't gotta play games no more

I ended with a smile, pulling myself closer to Harry, meeting him in the middle for a kiss. Letting him guide us down again, I was the one that started nipping at his neck, smirking at the growls that came from low in his throat. "You keep on doing that, and I won't be able to restrain myself." Harry warned.

"Good." I breathed out, sure that my pupils were just as blown as his was. Chuckling, he started his assault on my neck, and this time, there wasn't anyone who interrupted us.

*****(Two Days Later)*****

"I swear, if you don't stop sneaking up behind me and tickling me, I'm going to kill you." I growled, glaring at my new boyfriend as he chuckled amusedly.

"Do that, and you won't find anyone who can fuck you like I can." Harry retorted, smiling as my cheeks turned red.

"Harry Hook!" I exclaimed, punching his arm.

"Ouch, that hurt!" Harry yelped, rubbing the sore spot. "Careful with the me sweetheart, I'm special."

"Yeah, special needs." I mumbled under my breath, certain that Harry didn't hear me while the palace came into sight. "Alright, let's get goin'."

"You sure about this?" Harry asked, all of the teasing disappearing and seriousness replacing it.

"It's the only way that I'll be able to talk to him." I reminded. "Stay safe and near here, I'll find you after I'm done."

"Okay." He nodded, pulling on my hand to stop me from going.

"What?" I barely got out before he pulled me into yet another kiss.

"Be safe." Harry ordered.

"I will." I smiled, squeezing his hand before heading up to the palace. Since turning invisible was easier than to teleport, I quickly made my way through the hallways and into Ben's office. I knew that none of the magic users would be able to find sense me because Mal had gone to visit Evie and Doug for some peace and quiet, and her dad, Hades (yes, I know that) had decided to play bodyguard and protect his little girl.

"No, James, that's not what I mean!" Ben exclaimed, rubbing his temples in frustration. "Look, just you and Melody find someone to help you. I have to meet the Council in two hours, try to find someone by then."

"It's a lot harder than it looks, isn't it?" I chuckled, making myself visible again.

"You have no idea." Ben groaned before his head shot up, taking in my appearance. Besides my magic and a dagger, I was unarmed and wearing normal clothes. "What are you doing here?"

"Coming to talk to you, why else?" I asked, sitting down in a chair and leaning back.

"Where's Harry? If Uma and Gil find out that your here-" Ben started.

"He's fine." I rolled my eyes. "And besides, he's the one who jumped on me. If he wasn't touching me, I wouldn't've teleported him with me." *And then I wouldn't've had the best lay in my life and have a boyfriend.*

"Dawn, why are you causing so many problems?" Ben asked.

"I'm not, I'm actually helping you." I shrugged.

"Really? Then why has everything gone to shit once you popped up?" Ben shouted, making me thankful that I had cloaked the room with a spell that would keep it soundproof.

"Because I'm taking down an army that's planning to take over Auradon." I answered honestly.

"I don't believe you. No one wants to take over Auradon." Ben denied.

"Then why is there an army building in the North, using everyone that survived the massacre?" I retorted, raising a brow. "Ben, if you don't step up soon, your baby will be born into slavery. That is, if Azazel lets him even live."

"Her." Ben corrected. "It's a girl."

"Congratulations." I smiled genuinely. "But you need to send forces to take down these people. They're some of the most powerful people, and the more that the Council makes people mad, the more that they'll support Azazel."

"Who's this Azazel person?" Ben questioned.

"He's an idiot." I stated. "But, he's a manipulative idiot. He hates all of the high-ranking people here, but he really hates my family."

"Why?"

"Because he's the son of ex-Governor Ratcliffe. That's the guy that my Dad practically ruined and made him a prisoner. Azazel's mom was probably a gold-digger and left him in an orphanage or something while Dad and Mom was able to get married and have a happy life together. And his son Aaron, has it out for me because I'm able to beat him in a fight."

"Really? That little of a reason?"

"Well, if there's another one, I haven't heard of it." I sighed, crossing my arms. "Listen, I'm not asking for you to trust me immediately or the way you used to. I'm just asking for help to take down these guys and to save Auradon."

"Alright." Ben agreed with a nod after a beat of silence. "What now?"

Chapter 20

Dawn POV:

"Your sure that they're all here?" Ben asked, dressed in his military uniform.

"My latest intel says so." I shrugged, also dressed in my full armor. "That's the best we can do." Quickly making the markings disappear as I heard steps headed our way, Ben turned to see Harry open the door.

"Not quite." Harry stated, the rest of the group entered; which included Uma, Gil, Mal, Evie, Jay, Carlos, Lonnie, and Jane. "I told them what you two were planning, and well, they wanted to help."

"Does the meaning of the words 'secret' and 'classified' mean nothing to you?" I asked, raising a brow at my boyfriend.

"If Auradon is in danger, we deserve to be able to help." Mal stated, her green eyes glowing as she watched me. "Maybe even more so than you."

"Oh yes, by all means, judge before you know the whole story." I deadpanned, rolling my eyes and looking back down at the map. My back was to a wall, which helped my borderline paranoia slightly. Using magic to allow the markings to come back on the table, I stepped back to allow the others come to look over the map. "Azazel and half of his army are going to be riding through this gully sometime tonight. The way they're trained, six of you will be able to take care of them easily."

"Who's going?" Ben asked me, the others surprisingly not questioning his decision for me to run this mission.

"Jay, Lonnie, Carlos, Harry, Gil, and Uma." I informed. "The rest of the army will be led by Azazel's lieutenant, Duelly. He's a dimwit, and a coward. You circle him, take down a couple of his men, he'll

surrender immediately. That's what Mal, Evie, Jane, and you are going to do."

"What about Aaron?" Harry reminded.

"He has an army too." I sighed. "But those, I'll take care of."

"So you're going to take out an entire army by yourself?" Uma asked, skeptical.

"Oh god no." I chuckled. "I have some friends that's coming to help."

"You have friends? Outside of Auradon?" Carlos asked, surprised.

"I used to be the Royal Advisor, and also took on the role as Diplomat. I have friends just about everywhere in the world." I informed before gesturing to the stretch of forest that was beside the sea. "We'll be around this area, probably pushing them from the forest towards the sea where there isn't any cover."

"Wouldn't they just be able to store some ships there and sail away?" Uma pointed out the 'hole' in my plans.

"Normally? Yes." I nodded. "But, I also have a couple of friends who have more than a few ships. If they try to escape, it'll be the last thing they do."

"Prisoners or no?" Jay finally asked the looming question.

"If it was up to me, I'd say kill 'em." I shrugged. "But, it's not. That's up to the Royal Couple."

"If they surrender, take them prisoner. Otherwise, shoot to kill." Ben decided after a silent conversation between him and his wife-to-be. Mal sighed heavily and rubbed her belly, probably getting close to the time to give birth. As everyone started to get ready for the impending fight, I leaned against the doorway, watching the sunset. Turning my head slightly, I was joined by Ben. "Dawn, who's this backup?"

"I'll be fine. They're trustworthy." I smiled slightly, knowing that despite everything I had done, Ben was still worried about my well-

being.

"Where's your parents?" He asked after a beat of silence. "Are they okay? The Lord's didn't take them away, did they?"

"They're safe, no thanks to you." I growled, my mood changing at the reminder of how Royal guards had taken my parents captive. While we were talking, the sun had disappeared below the horizon and I straightened. "Good luck." And with that, I left the house, heading into the forest. Hearing a branch break, I grabbed a dagger and turned towards the sound.

"Woah, it's just us." Peter chuckled, floating through the trees and dropping down beside me. "Loosen up once in a while Dawn!"

"Yeah, last time I did that was about...never." I said sarcastically.

"After this battle, you're going on vacation to Neverland with us." Peter decided.

"Sure, sounds fun." I chuckled. "But for now, we need to take care of these annoying cockroaches."

"Cockroaches? Where'd that come from?" Peter asked, his amusement clear.

"I have no idea." I admitted with a soft laugh. "Where's the others?"

"Simba and his pride are waiting on the North side, Sparrow's on the coast, and the others are to the South." Alex, one of the lost boys, informed.

"Good." I nodded. "Well, get ready to cause some noise boys." They all brightened at being given the task of doing something they loved to do, making loud noises. Since Aaron's army was on horseback, it'd be easier to scare the horses towards the coast and finish them out in the open. While Ben had decided to keep prisoners, I hadn't, and wasn't going to bother with them. So, Sparrow had been given orders to fire on the men as soon as they broke the forest line and there was a large target. Of course, I did have to promise him that he and his crew could loot the bodies after we were done.

"Here they come!" Peter said excitedly, his joy displayed clearly on his face.

"Calm down, we need to wait until they start to reach where the South line is." I ordered, pulling him back down behind the bush from where he was floating in the air.

"But-" Peter started.

"Pan." I said sternly, knowing that if I called him by his last name, he'd get the idea. Glaring briefly at me, Peter crossed his arms and pouted, acting much like a toddler that didn't get their way. Rolling my eyes fondly at his antics, I continued watching the foliage, knowing that I'd probably hear them before they came into sight, for this part of the forest was thick and hard to see far. Within a couple of minutes, the heavy sound of horse's hooves was heard, making me gesture to the boys to get down.

As soon as the small army had reached Simba's line, we knew. The roars and screams of the men were more than enough to know for us to begin. Yelling, we stood up from our places, starting to run towards the coast, pushing the entire army to the shore. It wasn't long before cannons and guns started firing, Sparrow and his crew catching sight of the soldiers breaking the tree line. However, Aaron wasn't a fool, and had teleported away from the death trap, now riding his horse away. Sighing tiredly, I yelled for the group to continue, knowing that I'd have to be the one to go after Aaron.

Grabbing the arm of one of the men that came rushing towards me, I threw him to the ground, quickly throwing myself into the saddle. Tracking Aaron using my magic, I urged the horse forward, crouching low near his neck to keep the wind resistance to a minimum. After 15 minutes of riding at a hard gallop, my horse began to start faltering, tiny stumbles that were barely detectable. Pulling up on the reins, I slowed to a walk, waiting for the mare to get her strength back. I honestly didn't know why they had decided to use mares, everyone knew that they were weaker and had less stamina than stallions and geldings.

Dismounting, I felt along her legs, feeling heat near her knees. Growling in annoyance, I used some of my magic to heal her legs

and give her her stamina back, swinging back into the saddle. Urging her forward again, we resumed the trail at a paced gallop, soon coming to a dark abandoned castle. Before riding into the courtyard, I blinked to stop seeing the dark trail that Aaron had, then jumped to the ground. Noticing the grey stallion tied near water, it was easy to tell why Aaron was able to get away faster than I was able to follow him, since his horse was more powerful than mine was. Unsaddling the bay mare, I led her over to the water, watching my surroundings while letting her cool down.

Tying her beside the stallion, I began my search of the castle. Like any castle, there were going to be many places to hide here, and Aaron's ability to teleport didn't help. But I knew something that he didn't. This particular castle used to be the capital of a powerful kingdom, one where all of the royal family were powerful magic wielders, using their magic for good and protecting their kingdom. But like every story, they had enemies. And in this story, the good guys *didn't* win. A witch had cast a spell on this place, so that whoever used magic here would be killed by the person they loved most. It was harsh and terrifying, but it was what was going to allow me to win this battle.

"Oh Aaron!" I called in a sing-song voice, twirling my dagger around my left hand while holding one of my swords with my right. "Where are you?"

"You're a freaking tracker! Use it!" Aaron's voice echoed through the large hall, which I assumed was once the Throne Room.

"Did you really forget our pact?" I chuckled, putting the dagger away and handling my sword. "Remember? We agreed to never use magic against each other." Once upon a time, Aaron and I were...frenemies. While our Dad's fought, we exchanged harsh words, but we didn't want to hurt each other, so we made a pact to not use magic on each other. Of course, that was mostly because at that time, Aaron had magic and I didn't, but that didn't matter at the moment.

"Stop talking like we were friends!" Aaron yelled, teleporting behind me and going to slash at me...but then the curse started. His sword disappeared and his eyes grew frightened. Smiling slightly, I

shrugged.

"Should've listened to the history lessons." I smirked, leaving the room, his screams following me. Mounting his stallion, I led the mare outside of the castle, heading back to Auradon, back *home.*

*****(Back in Auradon)*****

"Dawn!" Harry was the first to notice me, picking me up and spinning me around. "I'm glad you're okay."

"Of course I am." I chuckled.

"Where's Aaron?" Azazel yelled. "Where's my son?!"

Turning to face him, I smiled at Dad, who was once again putting Azazel in jail, hopefully this time for good. "Aaron killed himself." I said bluntly, not feeling like having to explain the whole situation to everyone. "And with you in prison again (this time for life) and Maleficent's scepter back where it belongs, Auradon's safe again."

"I'll kill you." Azazel growled.

"You don't have the guts to kill me." I challenged, Dad shoving Azazel into the prison van before the man could react. Coming over, he threw his arms around me, pressing a kiss to the side of my head.

"Your Mom is going to be so proud of you." He mumbled, pulling away to smile brightly.

"I just did what she told me to do." I smiled at him, Dad chuckling before he got into the driver's seat of the Prison Van, arguing with his passenger. Which, to my surprise, was Hades. Turning to face the group, I jerked a thumb towards the vehicle. "Am I going crazy, or is my Dad in the same car as Hades?"

"What's so shocking about it?" Mal asked, tiredness clear on her face. Apparently fighting while being pregnant was more draining than I originally thought.

"Dad was pretty mad when I told him that Hades was part of the

reason I passed out." I hummed. "I just thought he'd hold a grudge against him for the rest of his life."

"Guess people change." Ben stated, standing protectively near his fiancée. "Speaking of change, are you going to be coming back to Auradon now?"

"Depends." I shrugged. "Am I still a wanted criminal?"

"No." Ben chuckled, his grin teasing. "And your old job is still there if you want it."

"Oh, I wouldn't want to take it away from-" I started.

"Please accept it, believe me, they'll be thanking you for months." Evie interrupted.

"Okay, guess you're stuck with me again." I teased Ben while Harry's arms wrapped around my waist, resting his chin on my shoulder.

"Wait, when did this happen?" Carlos asked, gesturing between us two.

"You two liked each other?" Jay also asked, standing next to his best friend.

"Oh boys." Lonnie rolled her eyes while we laughed. "So oblivious."

Epilogue

Dawn POV:

"Are you still sure about this? Cause it's not too late to stop." Lonnie asked me. "We can grab a car and reenact Runaway Bride."

"Yes Lonnie, I'm sure." I chuckled, messing with my hair.

"Nu-uh, don't." Evie warned, slapping my hand away. "You have no idea how hard this style is to create."

"You're the one that wanted to do it." I sang, earning myself another slap. "Ow!"

"Stop moving." She ordered.

"Sometimes I wonder if you forced Doug to marry you." I mumbled jokingly. Doug and Evie were the most adorable couple ever, getting married a couple of months ago. It had been three years since the battle with Azazel and the death of Aaron, three years of peace and quiet. Yes, it had taken a while for me to get everything back into a steady pace, and the Council had once again fought me every step, but I think that their knowledge of how dangerous I could be kept them from getting too difficult. And then six months ago, Harry asked me to marry him.

I said yes, *obviously*.

And today was the big day. He had been blowing up my phone since last night, not liking the rule of not seeing the bride the night before or the day of the wedding. I really didn't care for the rule, but the girls had insisted that it get used. So here I was, getting my hair wrangled into an intricate hairdo. Thankfully I wasn't being forced to wear the wedding dress already too, partly because Sophie, Mal and Ben's little girl, would've found some way to spill something on it. Mal had already done my nails, and they were now drying.

It had been slightly stressful last six months, planning a wedding on top of dealing with the kingdom business. Harry was very helpful, probably more helpful than most grooms were with planning the wedding. Thankfully, Jane had really stepped up to help us decide the venue and then designed almost everything around it. She really deserved the job that she had gotten at Auradon's leading interior design company, and she absolutely loved it. Out of everything in planning this wedding, somehow picking the cake was the hardest. Not necessarily what color it was, but the flavor.

"I'm with Lonnie." Uma spoke up, entering the room. "Your about to get saddled with the most difficult man alive. Sure about this?"

"Yes, for the last time, I want to marry Harry." I rolled my eyes fondly, meeting Uma's eyes in the mirror. "And did you seriously leave Harry and Gil alone in a room?"

"Ben, Jay, Doug, and Carlos are there." Lonnie reasoned.

"No, Doug and Carlos are helping Jane do last-touches on the banquet hall, Mal had to go direct the flower people for the wedding chapel." I rambled off, thankful for my powerful memory. "Jay and Ben are guarding the door, something about making sure that Harry doesn't come barreling in here."

"Oh shit. I didn't think that through." Uma cursed, rushing out of the door.

"Hey Uma!" I called.

"Yeah?" She asked, poking her head back inside.

"Send Ben and Jay to go check on them. You can guard the door, after all, he'd probably listen to you better than them two." I informed.

"Well, you ain't wrong." She chuckled, closing the door behind her.

Third Person POV:

"Give me my tie, damn it." Harry ordered Gil, who had leaped over a table, the two now playing the game of running around the table.

"Catch me first!" Gil taunted.

"Do you really want Dawn to be upset that I'm late, and that *you're* the reason?" Harry threatened, the other male simply giggling boyishly and jumping back as Harry tried to swipe the tie back. "I'm going to gut you!"

"You can't." Gil reminded. "Uma and Mal took your hook away."

"Gil Gaston, so help me..." Harry growled, jumping towards his brother figure, annoyance clear as Gil jumped back again.

"Dawn was right, we shouldn't have left you guys alone." Ben stated as he and Jay entered the room, glancing at the mess of things thrown around, all in an effort to get Harry's tie back.

"I thought you guys were on guard duty?" Gil asked, distracted. Harry took advantage of it, grabbing his tie from the other pirate and starting to wrap it around his neck.

"Easy there pal, you're going to strangle yourself if you aren't careful." Jay chuckled, coming over to tie the final part of the forest green accessory. "Ease up, this should be the happiest day of your life."

"It's also the most nerve-racking." Ben spoke from experience. "You'll understand when you and Lonnie get married."

"No." Jay shook his head, nose crinkling in disgust. "Lonnie is a friend, nothing more." Harry and Ben exchanged looks, both knowing that despite what both Lonnie and Jay said, the two were too close to be just friends, or even best friends. They would know too, since both of their best friends were girls.

"Whatever you say." Harry rolled his eyes. Normally, he'd use it to take a shot at his rival, but today wasn't a normal day. He was opening his mouth to ask Ben a question when a knock was heard at the door. Gil peeked through a crack first before opening the door all the way, an excited smile still on his face.

"Hey Mr. Smith!" Gil greeted.

"Gil, it's John. Mr. Smith was my father." John chuckled, patting Gil's shoulder before entering the room.

"John." Harry nodded, his face going sobering as his soon-to-be father-in-law stopped in front of him.

"Harry." John's blue eyes were identical to Dawn's, including the icy look when they got serious. "I don't think that I have to go into much detail about what I'll do if I find out you did anything to hurt my little girl, do I?"

"I'd never hurt Dawn." Harry stated, his own blue eyes sharpening (yes, the slightly crazed look was also there). "And if I ever did, you have my full permission to knock some sense into me, one way or the other."

"Good man." John cracked a smile, patting Harry's shoulder before greeting the others and leaving.

"Somehow, he just managed to be scarier than Hades." Ben broke the silence, everyone laughing at his statement.

Dawn POV:

"You ready?" Dad asked as the piano started playing and Ben walked down the aisle, holding a bouquet of white roses. Unlike other weddings, Harry and I had moved things so that our best friends could be by our side, so Uma was already present. I had teased Ben about making him wear a dress, but sadly the King of Auradon face some serious charges if he wore a dress. Stupid, yes. Especially since he had actually agreed to wear a dress, which is something I would love to see.

"Yeah." I smiled, tucking my hand into Dad's arm, standing up. The heels had a little strap that made my feet hurt, so they'd be coming off quickly, because sadly I couldn't just go in moccasins or go barefoot. The wedding march started playing, and two men opened the double doors, everyone turning to watch us, well mostly me, walk down the aisle. Meeting Harry's eyes, he smiled, which made the butterflies in my stomach multiply and start doing backflips.

In about 15 minutes, I was going to be married to the man of my dreams, the love of my life. This was honestly something I thought would never happen, since I was so outspoken and didn't take shit from anyone. Boys usually shied away from me, and quite frankly, I liked being able to walk through the halls without being cat-called. But then Harry dropped into my life, and I fell faster and harder than I thought I even could. And it all happened because for his first executive decision, Ben had decided to allow some kids from the Isle to come over to Auradon. Looking around the room as we slowly made our way up to the front, I thought about how far everyone had come over the years.

Audrey; She was an annoying brat who didn't know how to keep her mouth shut and the true meaning of being polite. Since turning evil and getting turned back, Audrey was one of the nicest people I'd ever met. She was genuinely kind and had high self-esteem, not having to insult other girls to feel better about herself.

Lonnie; She used to be a voice that was ignored, a quiet and confident girl who was losing her spunk from constant insults. Then Jay let her become the Captain of both the Tourney and Fencing team. Lonnie changed to becoming the best player on our team, and known throughout all of the schools as a powerful opponent.

Jane; Gone was the timid girl that hated everything about herself and was scared of every little thing. She was one of the best interior designers in Auradon and the United Kingdoms, also being the Royal Event Planner. Jane and Carlos were closer and in love more each day, something that most couples wished to be.

Chad; Oh Chad. The boy still worshiped the ground that Audrey walked on, but he wasn't as conceited as he used to be. In fact, he was more like his Mom now, spending time in nature and helping others. He was now a model for Evie and Doug's fashion business, something that very much so fit his personality.

Jay; He still wore mostly leather, but had stopped stealing things. Mostly. Sometimes there would be random little things that would disappear, but if someone from our group confronted him, he'd give it back. Now the Co-Coach for the Tourney team, Jay had once again given his higher status to Lonnie (making her Coach), and

sent a glare at anyone who dared to even start questioning her orders.

Carlos; Carlos, the boy who was terrified of dogs. He still had Dude, and Dude could still talk. We're not sure exactly how to stop him from talking, and just gave up on trying. Besides, he was comic relief. But Carlos was a vet, setting up his own practice and treating animals of all sizes. Sometimes he'd get a little scared of a vicious dog, but it wouldn't be long before they were the best of buds.

Gil; All brawn, no brain. But he still made really good points, which usually stunned everyone. He was still an adorable puppy, but he now was somehow even *happier*, loving the small comforts of Auradon. He had an adorable relationship with Uma, which was also the reason we knew that he also had a dangerous side, because when someone threatened *his* girlfriend, his strength would very noticeable.

Doug; Doug...hadn't actually changed very much. Well, I take that back. He was more confident. Managing the books for him and Evie's fashion business, he had managed to forgive Chad and was actually the one who offered him a job at the shop. Doug had won several awards in both Chemistry and Math, the blue ribbons and certificates displayed proudly on his office wall.

Evie; Bye-bye to the girl who thought her only good thing was her looks and wanted to get a Prince with a big castle. She still liked mirrors, but it wasn't the same creepy obsession that her mother had. She and Doug's fashion business was very successful, so much so that she had expanded her horizons and started doing wedding dresses also (yes, she made mine--and Mal's). Dizzie also worked for her, making accessories that were custom-made for dresses.

Uma; The Pirate Captain was still a Captain of her ship, but she didn't plunder the sea. Instead, she was the Captain of the Royal Sea Guard, captaining the Royal ship that the Royal family used to travel. Uma was very much so in love with Gil, also protective of her boyfriend. She was still protective of Harry, something that had been engraved into their minds from their childhood on the Isle.

Mal; Mal didn't want to live up to her mother's expectations, or

Auradon's. She was completely fine with being the girl from the Isle, the daughter of the two most feared Villains in the land. She was an amazing Queen, and despite what she thought, Mal was also a great mother. Sophia was her and Ben's first child, and looked like the perfect combination of Mal and Ben, but there was another on the way, this time a little boy.

Ben; Ben was just as righteous and just as he was when I first met him, but he had become less naïve about how harsh the world was. Charity was still his main goal, setting up and sponsoring many Shelters and Homes for the poor and homeless, while finding good homes for kids who were orphans or parents didn't want them. Ben still didn't have the grit that the Isle kids and some Aurdonian kids had, but his relentlessness mostly made up for it.

Harry; But out of everyone, I think that Harry probably changed the most. He didn't idolize the man that abused him and no longer thought that he deserved the way that his father treated him. The scars were still there, both mental and physical, they always would be, but the nightmares had gotten less frequent until they were hardly there. Yes, there were still nights that he woke up in a cold sweat and gasping for air, but I was always there to ground him, something that he had told me helped him.

By now we had reached the end of the aisle and were in front of FG, Harry, Ben, and Uma. "Take care of her." Dad firmly ordered Harry as he stepped towards us to take my hand. Going to sit down beside Mom at the left front table, I caught sight of the tears that they were both holding back. Turning to smile at Harry, I slightly lifted the dress to step onto the platform.

"We're here today to witness the joining of two wonderful people, the start of a new life for both Dawn and Harry." FG called, the piano stopping. Normally we'd say a long speech about each other, but Harry and I didn't feel the need to do so. We knew why we loved each other, and some things in the past were there for a reason. "Do you have the rings?" Uma handed Harry mine and Ben handed me Harry's, me taking Harry's left hand first. "Okay, Dawn, repeat after me."

"I, Wapun Smith, take you, Harry Hook," I didn't stop, Harry and I

having memorized the vows last week, "to be my husband, to have and to hold from this day forward, for better or for worst, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, from this day forward until death do us part." Fitting the simple silver band onto his left hand, I smiled brightly.

"I, Harry Hook, take you, Wapun Smith," Harry pronounced my name perfectly, something that he was very proud of, "to be my wife, to have and to hold from this day forward, for better or for worst, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, from this day forward until death do us part." Slipping off my engagement ring and moving it to my right hand, he put the wedding ring onto my left finger, his blue eyes lighting up with happiness.

"By the authority given to me, I now pronounce you husband and wife." FG smiled. "You may now kiss the bride." As Harry pulled me into a firm and loving kiss, the crowd cheered, our friends cheers and hollers the loudest.

And to think, all of this started with a little girl taking care of a little boy's injuries...

Author's Note:

Thank you so much for reading Dare-Devil! Dawn and Harry have gotten their happily ever after, and for once, the fairy tale ended with happiness for everyone!

I'm so happy to finish yet another of my stories, so thank you for bearing with me throughout my journey in writing this story.

Bonus Chapter 1

Dawn POV (Six months before the Epilogue):

Christmas time was one of the most important and busiest times in the Royal Palace. Between planning the Annual Christmas Ball and setting up our own personal Christmas party, it was safe to say that there was hardly any downtime time whatsoever for me. Normally, there weren't very many kids to have to worry about, and therefore the work was a tad bit easier. However, with the arrival of Sophia, Mal and Ben's daughter, things were a little more hectic with trying to keep her safe and not getting lost or anything.

"Sophie!" Speaking of the Crown Princess, the little two-year-old was now running down the halls, away from her father.

"Hey Princess." Harry whisked her away from the crowded hallway, safe from the threat of being trampled. "And why are ya runnin' away from your Da?"

"He's trying to get me stabbed!" Sophia exclaimed, burying her head into my boyfriend's neck. We had no idea why, but for some reason, the Pirate Trio had ended becoming Sophia's favorite people since she was born, with Harry becoming the Number 1. And surprisingly, Harry had easily gotten along with her, always being sure to be gentle. I had lost track of how many times she'd thrown a fit because 'Aunt Dawn was taking my fwiend away' and me having to drag Harry to whatever it was we were supposed to be doing, which for me, was both impressive and concerning.

"Princess, I highly doubt that Ben would do anything like that." Harry chuckled as my best friend finally arrived, panting for breath. "You alright there, mate?"

"I've been chasing her all around this castle!" Ben exclaimed, making me chuckle. "Oh shut up, wait until you have a toddler running around."

"Ben, it'll be Harry and I's kid, they'll be fighting everything that moves, not running away from us." I smiled teasingly, ruffling Ben's hair up. "Now what's this about you trying to get Sophia stabbed?"

"Evie is going to make her and Mal matching dresses, but as you can tell, Sophia didn't agree." Ben informed.

"You're trying to get me stabbed!" Sophia repeated, holding on tighter to Harry.

"Well maybe if you didn't squirm so much, the pins wouldn't poke you." I suggested, only met with a firm shake of her head. Looking between her and Harry, I slowly began to smirk, making Harry's eyes widen.

"No." Harry stated. "I don't know what it is that you thought of, but no. I don't like the way you're lookin' at me."

"Sophie," Her nickname fell easily from my lips. "How'd you like it if Harry went to go get fitted with you? Do you think you'd be able to handle it then?"

"Dawn-" Harry started, letting Sophia down as he turned to address me.

"Yes!" Sophia exclaimed. "Come on Uncle Harry! Let's go see Aunt Evie together!"

"Yeah, of course." Harry sighed, glaring at me as he allowed the young blonde to drag him away. Ben and I managed to look at each other for a total of five seconds before we burst into laughter. I leaned against the wall before slowly sliding down while he went straight to the floor, making the help look at us with a mixture of amusement and surprise.

"I'm honestly surprised that he hasn't murdered you already." Ben breathed out, gasping for breath.

"He wouldn't be able to live without me." I joked, holding my side. Although I was saying it in a joking tone, it was the truth, for both of us. If we lost each other, it'd be mutual destruction, while taking a whole lot of people out with us. That's why, in the two years we'd

been dating, Harry and I hadn't ever had a true fight. Sure, there were a couple of times that we had gone the rest of the day without talking, but then we'd spent all night talking and figuring everything out...followed by make-up sex.

"Dawn, I think that's the most truth I've heard in one sentence since I woke up." Ben flashed a smile, getting up and offering me a hand. Taking it, I pulled myself up and dusted my pants off. "Well, I better go help Harry with Sophia. I'll see you tonight."

"Don't bet on it." I half-chuckled as he disappeared around the corner. I knew that technically, I was ordered to go to the ball, but that hadn't stopped me from skipping out within the first few minutes and then 'magically' reappearing once it was time for the important stuff like announcements. Letting out a shaking breath, I started going down my mental checklist again for things that needed to be done.

*****(That Afternoon)*****

I was walking towards the kitchen to make sure everything was on track there when I was suddenly yanked into a room. Yelping, I would've punched the culprit if I hadn't noticed the glint of Harry's hook. Yeah, he still kept the damn thing, annoying as it was. However, I was quickly taken out of my thoughts as my pirate boyfriend began ravishing my neck, sucking and nipping at the soft skin. "You're lucky I love you." Harry growled, finally letting up on his assault of my neck.

"Why? Did you not enjoy your time with Sophia?" I teased, letting a playful smirk spread across my face.

"You know I hate getting treated like a damn animal, measured for slaughter." Harry narrowed his eyes at me, barely succeeding in keeping his lips from quirking up.

"Harry, you needed a new suit anyway. Your last one got burned pretty badly last month." I reminded. We had gone on a vacation, which ended with a mansion being burned down while we fought some people that had tried to assassinate the Lord of that area. "Besides, you're the only one that can get Sophia to stay still and

keep calm."

"Damned if I know why." Harry mumbled, resuming his attack. Letting my neck roll to the side so he could get better access, I let myself relax in his arms, knowing that he wouldn't let me stop. Hearing a bell ring, I opened my eyes and straightened, trying to push him off. Stopping immediately and stepping back, his eyebrows furrowed in confusion. "What's wrong? Did I do something?"

"No, no, you didn't do anything." I reassured. "It's just that today is a really busy day and I need to be focused. So that means no quickies."

"Your no fun." Harry pouted.

"Yeah, yeah." I rolled my eyes. "Hey, I'll see you tonight at the ball, alright?"

"Yeah." He nodded, pressing a kiss to my lips before I left and resumed my journey to the kitchen.

*****(That Night)*****

"Well don't you look dapper?" I asked Jay, passing by him and Lonnie. They were so stubborn, so in love yet wouldn't dare to admit. Instead, they insisted that they were simply friends. This, of course, led to everyone in our group rolling their eyes, but for the most part, we didn't comment on it.

"Thanks, you too." Jay nodded. "You find Harry yet?"

"No, I'm looking for him right now." I informed, scanning the crowd yet again.

"Well, good luck." Lonnie smiled quickly before dragging Jay away, making me look at their retreating backs in confusion. There was definitely something up with the pair, but I didn't know exactly what it was. Shrugging in confusion and passing it off as some sort of sexual tension the two had decided to finally work out, I resumed my search for my boyfriend. However, there was no suit-clad Harry insight, making me frown before sighing.

Making my way to the punch table, I took one sip before having to stop from throwing up. "Carlos!" I called, grabbing the attention of the white-haired boy.

"What's up?" He asked, looking nervous as well.

"What's with the alcohol in the punch--all of the punch?" I deadpanned, taking another sip of it. "And why hard Vodka?"

"Because Uma and Harry said it wasn't strong enough, so they and Gil added some Vodka to it." Carlos rushed out, looking relieved, which made me even more confused. Why the hell was everyone looking so nervous around me? Had Harry done something stupid that they had covered up and was now worried that I was going to find out? If so, why were they hiding it from me? Just how bad was it?

However, before I could even start to question Carlos about why everyone was nervous (mostly because I knew that he would be the one to break--either him or Gil. But Gil was so clueless I felt bad when he spilled to me), Ben swooped in and spun me out onto the dance floor. "I see you didn't manage to skip out." He smiled, his face bright with a mixture of amusement and excitement.

"Yes, well, it appears that my date did." I hummed, scanning the crowd once again before focusing on dancing. If there was one thing that I pretty much sucked at, it was dancing without really thinking about it. "Where's Mal and Sophia?"

"Sophia threw a fit about not being able to eat more than three cookies, so Mal had to take her out." Ben informed. "They'll probably be back in soon."

"Yeah." I hummed, wishing that I could find Harry. Before I could think about it too long, Ben suddenly stopped dancing and started dragging me away from the dance floor. "Woah--where are we going?" I asked, struggling to keep up in these heels. I absolutely hated heels, but sadly half of the fancy dresses that I wore were too short to wear boots or moccasins.

"To find your lover." Ben winked, making me roll my eyes at his

teasing. Soon he led me to the balcony that overlooked the gardens, which were in full bloom thanks to FG's magic. "He's out there."

"Wait, you knew where he was the whole time?" I glared at him, slapping his arm.

"Ow!" Ben yelped, rubbing his spot. "Will you quit abusing me and go see your boyfriend?"

"You better be so glad that I'm not armed." I growled, making him chuckle before heading back to the main room. Taking a deep breath, I opened one of the doors, stepping out into the brisk air. As a breath of wind hit me, I shivered, hating myself for deciding to not wear my necklace. With it, I'd be able to warm myself up with a simple spell, but it didn't really go with this outfit (that's what Evie said anyway as she was removing it from my neck).

"Here." Harry's voice sounded from behind me, accompanied by his jacket going over my shoulder. Humming as his smell filled my senses, I let myself relax against him, instantly feeling more comfortable and at peace. Hearing his amused chuckle as he wrapped his arms around my waist, I opened my eyes to see him smiling at me.

"What's so funny?" I mumbled, turning so that I was able to hug him.

"With anyone else, you're full of fierceness and stubbornness, but around me, you're just so adorable." Harry explained, pressing a kiss to my forehead. "And I'm so honored to be able to witness your ups and downs."

"Believe me, sometimes I wish you didn't." I sighed. "I look horrid when I get bad."

"No you don't." Harry frowned.

"Then you, Harry Hook, are a man who's love." I giggled.

"You have that right." Harry smirked, letting out a shaky breath. Before I could question it, he started speaking again. "Which is why I want to do this." Letting go of me, he went down on one knee and

pulled out a ring. "Wapun Smith, will you spend the rest of your life calling me yours?"

"Yes." I smiled, pulling him into a kiss as he fitted the ring onto my finger. "Oh my god, I fucking love you so much, Har."

"I love you too, Dawn." Harry shared my smile, pulling into yet another kiss. "And I always will."